

Figueira

Decl. Ex. 13

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upon, prep.

Pronunciation: [?] Brit. /əˈpʊn/, U.S. /əˈpʌn/

Forms: α. Middle English—**upon** (Middle English, 1600s **up on**, 1500s *Scottish uponn*), Middle English—1600s **vpon** (Middle English **vp on**, Middle English *Scottish vpone*, *Scottish* Middle English—1500s **wpone**, 1500s–1600s **wpon**), Middle English—1600s **uppon**, **vppon** (Middle English *Orm*. **upponn**, Middle English **upp on**). β. Middle English—1500s **opon** (Middle English **oupon**, **opan**), Middle English **oppo**. γ. Middle English—1500s, 1800s *Scottish ap* (Middle English **apan**), Middle English *Scottish*, 1500s **apone**, Middle English—1500s *Scottish apoun*, Middle English—1600s *Scottish appon(e, apponne)*. δ. 1500s **poun**, 1700s–1800s **pon**. See also **upo** *prep.*

Frequency (in current use):

Etymology: Early Middle English *upon*, *uppon*, etc., < **up** *adv.*¹, **up** *adv.*² + **on** *prep.*; distinct from late Old English and early Middle English *uppon*, variant of Old English *uppan* **up** *prep.*¹

The compound may have partly arisen from uses of *upp on* or *uppe on* in Old English (for instances see **up** *adv.*¹, **up** *adv.*²), but the date at which it appears, and the locality of the texts in which it is first prominent, suggest that it was mainly due to the influence of Old Norse *upp á* (Middle Swedish *up a*, *op a*, *uppa*, *oppa*, etc.; Swedish *på*, Norwegian and Danish *paa*), with which it agrees in laying the stress on the preposition and weakening or altogether ignoring the force of *up*. In the modern Scandinavian tongues, except Icelandic and Faroese, the reduced form *på*, *paa*, corresponding to English (colloquial or dialect) *'pon*, *'po*, has displaced the simple preposition *á*, *aa* = on.

Originally denoting elevation as well as contact, the compound has from the earliest period of its occurrence so far lost the former implication, that is, it has been regularly employed as a simple equivalent of *on*, in all the varieties of meaning which that preposition has developed. The use of the one form or the other has been for the most part a matter of individual choice (on grounds of rhythm, emphasis, etc.) or of simple accident, although in certain contexts and phrases there may be a general tendency to prefer the one to the other. For ease of comparison, the following arrangement of the senses corresponds as closely as possible with that of **on** *prep.* (See also **HEREUPON** *adv.*, **THEREUPON** *adv.*, **WHEREUPON** *adv.*)

I. Of local position outside of, but in contact with or close to, a surface.

1.

a. Above and in contact with; in an elevated position on; at rest on the upper surface of; on and supported by; = **ON** *prep.* **1.**

In a few instances in late manuscripts (e.g. Hatton Gosp. Matthew v. 14) Old English *up on* can be taken in this sense, but appears to be merely a scribal variant or alteration of *uppon* for *uppan* **up** *prep.*¹

a1272 *Luue Ron* 121 in *Old Eng. Misc.* 97 Hit stont vppon a treowe mote.

c1290 *St. Brendan* 368 in *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 229 At ester eue heore procuratour bad heom..heore resurrection opoþe fisches rugge make.

c1290 *St. Brendan* 368 in *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 577 Þe ston þat ich op-on sitte.

a1325 (► c1250) *Gen. & Exod.* (1968) l. 2867 Ðat..hise folc..ben ðor gare, In ðe deserð an stede up-on, His leue sacrifice to don.

c1400 (► ?c1380) *Pearl* l. 1054 The hyȝe trone..þe hyȝe godeȝ self hit set vpone.

c1405 (► c1390) G. CHAUCER *Miller's Tale* (Hengwrt) (2003) l. 635 Til he cam to the Celle Vp on the floor.

c1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* I. 199 Vynys that vppon the hillis stonde.

1490 W. CAXTON tr. *Foure Sonnes of Aymon* (1885) xxii. 486 Reynawde..was vpon the hyghe gate of Ardeyn.

1508 W. DUNBAR *Goldyn Targe* (Chepman & Myllar) in *Poems* (1998) I. 184 The birdis sang vpon the tender croppis.

1568 A. SCOTT *Poems* (1896) i. 4 Welcum, oure rubent roiss vpoun þe ryce.

a1616 W. SHAKESPEARE *Antony & Cleopatra* (1623) IV. xv. 6 A forked Mountaine, or blew Promontorie With Trees vpon't.

1682 G. HARTMAN *Digby's Choice Coll. Rare Secrets* II. 215 Take it upon the point of a knife.

1732 G. BERKELEY *Alciphron* I. iv. viii. 222 The Castle upon yonder Hill.

1749 H. FIELDING *Tom Jones* V. xiv. ii. 119 She's here, Mrs. Honour is upon the Stairs.

- 1816 J. WILSON *City of Plague* I. i. 191 Wilt thou rest, old man, Upon this traveller's seat?
 1825 'J. NICHOLSON' *Operative Mechanic* 383 A pair of rollers upon the top of the roving-can.
 1903 MRS. DE LA PASTURE *Cornelius* 7 A Crown Derby service was spread forth upon a round table.

b. Said with reference to an expanse, as of land, sea, etc.; = *ON prep.* 1b
 (Frequently from c1650.)

upon a (+the) level (with): see *LEVEL* *n.* 2, 3.

- c1300 *Havelok* (Laud) (1868) 735 Þer sat is ship up-on þe sond.
 a1325 (▸ c1250) *Gen. & Exod.* (1968) l. 3273 And moyses stod up-on ðe sond.
 1340–70 *Alex. & Dind.* 39 Neuere werrede we wiþ wi3th up-on erþe.
 1340–70 *Alex. & Dind.* 739 Of swiche bestus..Þei han miht vp-on molde.
 1362 W. LANGLAND *Piers Plowman* A. IX. 56 Vnder a Lynde, vppon a launde leonede I a stounde.
 1390 J. GOWER *Confessio Amantis* I. 53 He syh upon the grene gras The faire freisshe floures springe.
 c1420 *Chron. Vilod.* 2393 Þis blessud virgyn..Twolfe3ere..in hurr tombe lay, As saffe, as hole as he vpon vrthe 3ede.
 ?c1475 in J. Gairdner *Sailing Direct.* (1889) 20 Opyn oo grounde, there is wose and sonde togidir..opon o the taile of ars
 in xxiiijti or xxvj fadome depe..Open one Liere there is stremy grounde.
 1508 *Golagros & Gawane* (Chepman & Myllar) sig. avi^v Thai plantit doun ane pailyeoun vpone ane plane lee.
 1526 *Bible* (Tyndale) Mark vi. f. liij When they sawe him walkinge apou the see.
 1535 BP. J. FISHER *Wks.* (1876) 305 He must treade vppon the fallowes.
 1568 in J. C. Hodgson *Wills & Inventories Registry Durham* (1906) III. 44 Corne..in the barne 58l., Upon the earth at
 20l.
 1610 *Bible* (Douay) II. Ezek. xvi. 5 Thou wast throwen forth upon the face of the earth.
 1650 J. HOWELL tr. A. Giraffi *Exact Hist. Late Revol. Naples* I. 15 Benches, Forms,..were burnt all to ashes upon the
 streets.
 1662 J. DAVIES tr. A. Olearius *Voy. & Trav. Ambassadors* 203 Wood and Lodging..are very scarce upon that Road.
 1711 J. ADDISON *Spectator* No. 42. ¶3. Two or three Shifters of Scenes..make up a compleat Body of Guards upon the
 English Stage.
 1812 LD. BYRON *Childe Harold: Cantos I & II* I. xiii. 14 Now I'm in the world alone, Upon the wide, wide sea.
 1828 E. BULWER-LYTTON *Pelham* III. xix. 309 I have no time..to speak of the earlier part of my life. I passed it upon the
 race-course.
 1871 H. R. HAWEIS *Music & Morals* (1874) 7 The Painter's art lies upon the surface of the world.

c. Denoting the part of the body on which one is supported; = *ON prep.* 1c.

See also *FOOT* *n.* and *int.* *Phrases* 2, *KNEE* *n.* 3a, *TIPTOE* *n.* 1.

- 1390 J. GOWER *Confessio Amantis* I. 286 Sche began merci to crie Upon hire bare knes.
 c1440 *Generydes* 44 Vppe vppon his fete he was a non.
 1481 W. CAXTON tr. *Hist. Reynard Fox* (1970) 18 He satte vpon his hammes.
 a1616 W. SHAKESPEARE *Julius Caesar* (1623) II. i. 269 Vpon my knees, I charme you,..By all your voves of Loue.
 1661 EARL OF ORRERY *Coll. State Lett.* (1742) 40 We are now upon our last legs.
 1692 tr. *C'tess D'Aunoy's Trav.* 157 Three or four Pages..serve me upon Knee.
 1712 R. STEELE *Spectator* No. 460. ¶7 Gallantry strutting upon his Tiptoes.
 1785 W. COWPER *Task* IV. 546 Her tott'ring form Ill propp'd upon French heels.
 1800 W. WORDSWORTH *Hart-leap Well* I. xi Upon his side the Hart was lying stretched.
 1843 T. B. MACAULAY *Horatius* lxvi Horatius in his harness, Halting upon one knee.

d. Indicating a means of locomotion or conveyance; = *ON prep.* 1d.

a1300 *Cursor Mundi* 894 For þou sal slid apon þi brest.

▸ c1300 *Havelok* (Laud) (1868) 2041 Yf he mouhte..gangen wel up-on hise fet.

1393 W. LANGLAND *Piers Plowman* C. vii. 43 Strengest vp-on stede, and styuest vnder gurdell.

c1400 (▸ ?c1380) *Cleanness* l. 88 Swyerez þat swyftly swyed on blonkez, & also fele vpon fote.

c1400 *Mandeville's Trav.* (Roxb.) i. 4 It es made sittand apon a hors.

1572 (▸ a1500) *Taill of Rauf Coilgear* (1882) 794 Vpon ane rude Runsy he ruschit out of toun.

1590 E. SPENSER *Faerie Queene* I. i. sig. A3^v She..Heaueie sate vpon her palfrey slow.

1648 H. HEXHAM *Groot Woorden-boeck Een Rijdt-bane*, a Sliding place..to slide upon Schates.

1660 F. BROOKE tr. V. Le Blanc *World Surveyed* 350 The great King, whom they carry upon a *Sindela* of cotton.

1719 D. DEFOE *Farther Adventures Robinson Crusoe* 39 We went on Shore upon the Tide of Flood, near high Water.

1803 R. SOUTHEY *Queen Orraca* iv. vii Upon her palfrey she is set, And forward then they go.

1821 W. SCOTT *Pirate* III. iii. 58 She saw him flee forth of the window..upon a dragon.

1853 E. K. KANE *U.S. Grinnell Exped.* (1856) xxxii. 282 I mounted the upheaving ice, and rode upon the fragments.

e. Denoting that on which the hand is placed in taking the oath, or the basis of an oath, etc.; = **on prep.** ^{1f}.

See also CONSCIENCE *n.* Phrases 1, EVANGEL *n.* ¹ 3, EVANGELY *n.* 3, FAITH *n.* 2, HONOUR *n.* Phrases 2, LIFE *n.* Phrases 4, REP *n.* ¹, SOUL *n.* Phrases 2, WORD *n.*

c1290 *Beket* 585 in *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 123 Pat he ne scholde nouȝt swerie op-on þe boke.

c1330 R. MANNYNG *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 10468 He swor hym vpon þe bok, To holde of hym his heritage.

1398 J. TREvisa tr. Bartholomew de Glanville *De Proprietatibus Rerum* (Bodl.) xv. cxxxvi Hoote welles þat..blindeþ beues ȝif he swereþ vpon þe water and toucheþ heere ȝen þerewiþ.

a1460 in *Hist. Coll. Lond. Citizen London* (Camden) 119 The for sayde captaynys have sworne a-pon hyr honowre that..they shalle not makyn [etc.].

1493 *Litt. Red Bk. Bristol* (1900) II. 134 This ys trew apon owre consciens.

c1540 (▸ ?a1400) *Destr. Troy* 642 Yow swiftly shall sweire vpon swete goddes, This couenaunt to kepe.

a1616 W. SHAKESPEARE *Tempest* (1623) II. ii. 123 I'le sweare vpon that Bottle, to be thy true subiect.

1645 *Docquets Lett. Pat. at Oxf.* (1837) 268 Administring of Oathes vpon the Holy Evangelistes.

1710 J. ADDISON *Tatler* No. 253. ¶1 The Assistants..were all sworn upon their Honour.

1723 D. DEFOE *Hist. Col. Jack* (ed. 2) 79 He would come back..and untie him upon his Word.

1776 *Trial Maha Rajah Nundocomar for Forgery* 52/1 You have sworn me upon the waters of the Ganges: how can I tell more than I remember?

1831 G. P. R. JAMES *Philip Augustus* III. x I declare that..he himself [is] worthy of death, upon my honour!

1847 C. DICKENS *Dombey & Son* (1848) xxxix. 387 Upon my word and honour,..it would be a charity.

†f. Above, more than. *Obsolete.* Cf. **up prep.** ¹ 8.

c1330 (▸ ?c1300) *Guy of Warwick* (Auch.) l. 359 Opon al oþer y loue þe.

c1430 *Syr Gener.* (Roxb.) 969 Son, vpon al thing Doo aftre Nathanaels teching.

†g. *figurative.* Over (a person, etc.), in respect of rule, authority, or supervision. *Obsolete.*

See also REIGN *v.* 4a(b), RULE *v.* 3c, RULER *n.* ¹ 1a(a) (quot. a1382).

c1380 J. WYCLIF *Wks.* (1880) 383 Þe kyngis of hepen han lordeschip vp-on hem.

c1400 *Mandeville's Trav.* (Roxb.) iii. 10 Þi powere es grete apon þi subgets.

1422 J. YONGE tr. *Secreta Secret.* 162 Oure Lord god enoyntyd Saule Kynge vpon Israell.

1477 EARL RIVERS tr. *Dictes or Sayengis Philosophres* (Caxton) (1877) lf. 35 He aught to haue lawde That..hath lordship

vpon his ennemyes.

1534 R. WHITTINGTON tr. Cicero *Thre Bks. Tullyes Offyces* i. sig. B.4 A man that wolde be chefe ruler vpon the commentye.

h. Taking part in, forming a member of (an inquest, jury, etc.). Cf. *ON prep. 1f*.

1516 *Reg. Privy Seal Scotl.* I. 422/2 Thai..being apone the inqueist..in the schiref court.

1609 *Bible* (Douay) I. Deut. xxix. 20 Al the curses sitte upon him.

1643 in W. H. Black *Docquets Lett. Patent at Oxf.* (1837) 5 Consociating himselfe with his neighboring Justices in sitting upon an illegal Commission.

1676 *Office Clerk of Assize* a vj Persons..to serve in or upon the Grand Jury.

1729 G. JACOB *New Law-dict.* sig. Eee4^v/1 Clergymen, Apothecaries, &c. are exempted by Law from serving upon Juries.

1769 W. BLACKSTONE *Comm. Laws Eng.* IV. xxiii. 301 As many as appear upon this panel are sworn upon the grand jury, to the amount of twelve at the least, and not more than twenty-three; that twelve may be a majority.

i. Hence in many phrases, originally denoting physical location, of which the sense has become more or less figurative; = *ON prep. I.**. See esp. *ANVIL n. 2b*, *CARPET n. 1b*, *HAND n. Phrases 1i(a)*, *HIGH adj. and n.² Phrases 5*, *Phrases 3*, *LEVEL n. 4*, *PAR n.¹ 2a*, *SPOT n.¹ and adv. Phrases 1d*, *TABLE n. Phrases 4a(a)*.

2.

a. Denoting contact with or location on a surface, etc., whatever its position; = *ON prep. 2a*.

(a)

c1175 *Ormulum* (Burchfield transcript) Ded. l. 69 Þatt upp onn all þiss boc ne be. Nan word 3æn cristess lare.

a1300 *Cursor Mundi* 23215 Painted fire..pat apon a wagh war wrought.

1382 *Bible* (Wycliffite, E.V.) Exod. xxxiv. 1 Y shal write vpon hem [sc. stone tables] the wordes that hadden the tablis.

1535 *Bible* (Coverdale) Hab. ii. A Wryte the vision planely vpon thy tables.

1552 in J. O. Payne *St. Paul's Cathedral* (1893) 22 A greate clothe of redd silke..with lions of golde upon it.

1566 W. PAINTER *Palace of Pleasure* II. S iv More lyvely..than any forme may be insculped upon metall or marble.

1600 W. SHAKESPEARE *Merchant of Venice* II. vii. 57 A coyne that beares the figure of an Angell stampd in gold, but thats insculpt vpon.

a1616 W. SHAKESPEARE *Macbeth* (1623) v. i. 7 I haue seene her..take foorth paper,..write vpon't, read it.

a1616 W. SHAKESPEARE *Macbeth* (1623) v. x. 26 As our rarer Monsters are Painted vpon a pole.

1629 *Vse of Law* 89 in J. Doddridge *Lawyers Light* So that hee fore-see, that hee pay Debts vpon Record, debts to the King; Then vpon Iudgements.

1729 T. INNES *Crit. Ess. Anc. Inhabitants Scotl.* I. 106 His name is upon it, written with his own hand.

1766 O. GOLDSMITH *Vicar of Wakefield* I. ii. 11 As he had engraven upon his wife's tomb.

1776 *Trial Maha Rajah Nundocomar for Forgery* 97/2 Did you see upon the face of the bond anything to make you suspect it?

1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Apr. 203 Which is very practicable upon paper.

1888 'J. S. WINTER' *Bootle's Children* v. 36 A gold bangle with 'Mignon' upon it..in *raised* letters.

(b)

a1225 *Leg. Kath.* 1187 Þe treo Þer he deide upon.

c1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 43/300 Þis youngue Man sixe and þritti dawes heng up-on þe galu-treo.

1377 W. LANGLAND *Piers Plowman* B. i. 154 Was neuere leef vpon lynde liȝter þer-after.

14.. J. LYDGATE *Minor Poems* (1911) 252 As he [sc. Christ] hangeth vp-on the roode tre.

1536 *Exhort. to North* in F. J. Furnivall *Ballads from MSS* (1868) I. 307 The gallous apone, prepared for mardoche,

hanged he was.

1596 J. DALRYMPLE tr. J. Leslie *Hist. Scotl.* (1888) I. 121 Lat him end his lyf vpon ane fork.

a1616 W. SHAKESPEARE *Macbeth* (1623) v. v. 37 Vpon the next Tree shall thou hang.

1867 W. H. SMYTH & E. BELCHER *Sailor's Word-bk.* A sail set upon the flying jib-boom.

1899 *Shetland News* 16 Dec. (*E.D.D.* at *Hing* I took aff me kjaep, an' hang her apon a nail.

(c)

c1405 (▶ c1387–95) G. CHAUCER *Canterbury Tales Prol.* (Hengwrt) (2003) l. 111 Vp on his arm he bar a gay bracer.

?c1450 *Life St. Cuthbert* (1891) l. 813 With broches and golde opon hir arme.

1494 *Act 11 Hen. VII* c. 23 The little Bone that sitteth upon the great Fin.

?1523 J. FITZHERBERT *Bk. Husbandry* f. xiii^v A weding hoke wt a socket set vpon a lytell staffe.

1547 in A. Feuillerat *Documents Office of Revels Edward VI* (1914) 10 Th'under sleeves of..Satten cut vpon Red Sarcenett.

1655 T. STANLEY *Hist. Philos.* I. II. 7 By reflection of the Sunns beams upon a thick cloud, which, not able to pierce it, are refracted upon it.

1774 J. BRYANT *New Syst.* II. 231 Upon the head of the woman is a veil.

1824 T. G. CUMMING *Illustr. Origin Rail & Tram Roads* 24 Several branches were made..with the flaunche upon the wheel, and not upon the rail.

1847 F. MARRYAT *Children of New Forest* II. v. 110 Those clothes would not look well upon Oswald.

1889 A. CONAN DOYLE *Micah Clarke* xxx. 318 Monmouth must fight now, if he ever hopes to feel the gold rim upon his temples.

b. Used of immaterial relationships, or in figurative expressions.

to (be) get..upon (a woman): see [BEGET v. 2a\(b\)](#), [GET v. 25a](#).

a1400 *Minor Poems from Vernon MS* xlii. 8 His eȝe is euere þe vppon.

1423 *Kingis Quair* ii I..toke a boke to rede apon a quhile.

c1450 *Mirk's Festial* I. 6 Vnsley old man, goo hepen! for I se apon þe mony meruayles.

1549 *Bk. Common Prayer* (STC 16267) Pref. sig. **¶**.iv All thynges must be read vpon the boke.

a1616 W. SHAKESPEARE *Two Gentlemen of Verona* (1623) I. i. 20 Vpon some booke I loue, I'le pray for thee.

1662 E. STILLINGFLEET *Origines Sacrae* II. iii. §4 That what is spoken hath the impress of Divine authority upon it.

1662 E. STILLINGFLEET *Origines Sacrae* II. v. §2 They have a clear and distinct perception of God upon their own minds.

1719 D. DEFOE *Farther Adventures Robinson Crusoe* 234 The Horror that was upon our Minds.

1753 S. RICHARDSON *Hist. Sir Charles Grandison* I. xii. 66 Every one's eyes were upon me.

1806 J. BERESFORD *Miseries Human Life* I. vi. 106 Here am I..with a sort of traveller's lumbago upon me.

1832 L. HUNT *Gentle Armour* I. 142 The page returns with doubt upon his eyes.

1845 P. J. BAILEY *Festus* (ed. 2) 228 There was a tale Upon thy tongue he interrupted.

1877 C. H. SPURGEON *Serm.* XXIII. 669 It is absurd upon its very face.

c. By means of; with. Now *dialect*.

c1440 *York Myst.* xix. 212 Þe knyght vppon his knyffe Hath slayne my sone.

1600 W. SHAKESPEARE *Midsummer Night's Dream* II. i. 244 To dy vpon the hand I loue so well.

1742 *Philos. Trans.* (Royal Soc.) **42** 266 The Perfection of Smelling in the Inhabitants of the Antibes, who can run a Man upon the Nose like an Hound.

1751 C. LABELYE *Descr. Westm. Bridge* 71 Explaining before them, upon a working Model, the Method I proposed.

1790 J. BOSWELL *Let.* 8 ann. 1765 I. 268 I intended to have printed it upon what is called an *English* letter.

1865 R. HUNT *Pop. Romances W. Eng.* I. 105 Which eye can you see me upon?

d. Used in reference to an axis, pivot, or base; = *ON prep.* 1e (Cf. *RAISE v.*¹ 8c, *turn upon* — 2 at *TURN v.* Phrasal verbs 2.)

- 1570 H. BILLINGSLEY tr. Euclid *Elements Geom.* i. f. 8 A triangle..set or described vpon a line.
 1593 T. FALE *Horologiographia* f. 14 Upon E make a halfe circle from H by G.
 1679 J. MOXON *Math. made Easie* 29 The Circle..is described upon the Centre A.
 1728 E. CHAMBERS *Cycl.* A Triangle is equal to a Parallelogram upon the same Base, but half the Altitude.
 1796 *Instr. & Regulations Cavalry* 197 Each describing the portion of a circle upon (P) as a center.
 1830 LD. TENNYSON *Mariana* vi, in *Poems* 17 The doors upon their hinges creaked.
 1832 *Proposed Regulations Cavalry* III. 47 Two contiguous points given as a Base, upon which a body of troops is to march or form.
 1877 T. H. HUXLEY *Man. Anat. Invertebrated Animals* vi. 309 The next four somites..cease to be moveable upon one another.

3.

a. On the bank of (a river or lake); on the shore of (the sea); on the borders of (a territory, etc.); close by, near to; bordering upon; beside or by; = *ON prep.* 6.

- 1387 J. TREVISA tr. R. Higden *Polychron.* V. 329 He fauȝt..aȝenst þe Saxons..uppon þe ryver Gleny.
 a1400 *K. Alis.* (Laud) 4090 A Castel he had vpon þe ryue.
 c1425 *Eng. Conq. Irel.* 142 The tounes vp-on the see.
 1473 in C. Rogers *Rental Bk. Cupar-Angus* (1879) I. 197 To mak a myl..othir vpoun the gret watter or vpoun the burn.
 1526 *Reg. Privy Seal Scot.* I. 514/1 Theifis and tratouris duelland apoun Levin.
 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. N. de Nicolay *Nauigations Turkie* i. viii. 7 b Alger..is situated vpon the Mediterane Sea.
 1601 R. JOHNSON tr. G. Botero *Trauellers Breuiat* 150 Siras seated vpon the riuier Bindimire.
 1662 E. STILLINGFLEET *Origines Sacrae* III. iv. §13 The greatest part of the Countries lying upon the Ocean and Mediterranean.
 1720 D. DEFOE *Life Capt. Singleton* 221 A Tract of Land..seated upon some navigable River.
 1747 in *Colonial Rec. Pennsylvania* (1851) V. 87 Upon the heads of Joniady River.
 1859 LD. TENNYSON *Enid* in *Idylls of King* 8 Arthur..Held court at old Caerleon upon Usk.

†b. About; near; close on (a specified number, etc.). *Obsolete.*

In later use only with *CLOSE adj.* 1d, *NEAR adv.*² 1c, *NIGH adv.* 8d.

- 1451 J. CAPGRAVE *Life St. Gilbert* 68 He left at his deth swech persones dedicate to God vp-on too þousand too hundred.
 1477 W. CAXTON tr. R. Le Fèvre *Hist. Jason* (1913) 99 He cessed not to..rowe til he cam nyghe the Ile vpon a bowe shotte.
 1478 J. PASTON in *Paston Lett. & Papers* (2004) I. 613 A steppe-modyr of hyrs whyche is vpon 1 yer of age.
 1482 in H. E. Malden *Cely Papers* (1900) 102 Ther wylbe in aull with blottes apon xxvij or xxviij sarplers wholl.
 1534 *Bible* (Tyndale rev. Joye) Luke viii. 42 He had but a doughter only, apon a twelve yere of age.
 1548 *Hall's Vnion: Henry VIII* f. xxxij^v He had askryed a number of horsemen..vppon the poync of syx thowsand.
 1600 P. HOLLAND tr. Livy *Rom. Hist.* 177 There were upon two thousand & five hundred taken alive.
 1660 in E. Nicholas *Nicholas Papers* (1920) IV. 226 To pay mee my allowance..as it was regulated upon three years since.

4.

a. Denoting collateral position; esp. with *side*, *hand*, *†half*; *beam* (of a ship), *point* (of the compass); *north*, *south*, etc.; *right*, *left*; = *ON prep.* 4.

See also *BORDER v.* 5, *TOUCH v.* 19, *VERGE v.*¹ 2b.

(a)

- c1330 R. MANNING *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 7929 Southsex..& Middelsex..marchen vpon Kent.
 c1400 *Mandeville's Trav.* (Roxb.) vi. 22 Mesopotamy also marchez apon þe desertes of Araby.
 1569 R. GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 354 For we [Scots] are so lodged vpon England, that we may..enter which way we lust.
 1596 J. DALRYMPLE tr. J. Leslie *Hist. Scotl.* (1888) I. 31 Wpon the coste of the Lenox lyes Argyle.
 1624 T. HEYWOOD *Γυναικεῖον* II. 92 That part..which butted upon the west.
 1657 EARL OF MONMOUTH tr. P. Paruta *Politick Disc.* 81 Their own Soldiers, and..their Associates, who did all neighbor
 neer upon them.
 1668 N. CULPEPER & A. COLE tr. T. Bartholin *Anat.* (new ed.) I. 1 The upper part..is termed Hypochondrium,
 neighbouring upon the lower gristles of the Ribs.
 1681 J. DRYDEN *Spanish Fryar* I. i. 2 Upon the skirts Of Arragon, our squander'd Troops he rallies.
 1783 W. THOMSON in R. Watson & W. Thomson *Hist. Reign Philip III* v. 400 An island bordering upon Istria.
 1842 R. I. WILBERFORCE *Rutilius & Lucius* 106 Behind they abutted upon the grounds of Milo.
 1873 T. W. HIGGINSON *Oldport Days* v. 115 The house was close upon the water.

(b)

- ?a1400 *Morte Arth.* 3795 We are with Sarazenes be-sett appone sere halves!
 c1400 (► ?c1390) *Sir Gawain & Green Knight* (1940) l. 2070 Þe brode ȝateȝ [were] Vnbarred & born open vpon boþe
 halue.
 1487 (► a1380) J. BARBOUR *Bruce* (St. John's Cambr.) XI. 175 Schir Gylys de argente he set Vpon ane half, his renȝe to
 get.
 1565 A. GOLDING tr. Ovid *Fyrst Fower Bks. Metamorphosis* I. f. 1^v Twoo Zones doo cut the Heauen vpon the righter syde.
 1572 (► a1500) *Taill of Rauf Coilȝear* (1882) 291 I se the Firmament fair vpon ather syde.
 1577 B. GOOGE tr. C. Heresbach *Foure Bks. Husbandry* II. f. 70^v A riche grounde, leuell, and lying vpon the Sunne.
 1644 in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* Apr. (1913) 341 My Lord Ambassador beinge plac'd..upon his left hand about three Seates
 distante from him.
 1669 S. STURMY *Mariners Mag.* I. ii. 4 Upon what Point of the Compass the Object beareth from you.
 1739 C. LABELYE *Short Acct. Piers Westm. Bridge* 5 When the Wind is upon any Point of the Compass between the South
 and the West.
 1791 J. SMEATON *Narr. Edystone Lighthouse* §76 A vessel steering to Foy will have the wind upon her beam.
 1823 F. CLISSOLD *Narr. Ascent Mont Blanc* 11 [It] shelved down, upon our right, in one plane of smooth rock.

in extended use.

- 1656 CROMWELL *Speech* in T. Burton *Diary* (1828) I. p. clxix It was never so upon the thriving hand.
 1718 R. WODROW *Corr.* (1843) II. 362 May the kindgom of our Lord be upon the growing hand.
 1852 P. J. BAILEY *Festus* (ed. 5) 252 To you, dear ass, upon the sire's side, To you, sir steed, I'm on the dam's allied.

b. transferred. Indicating the side, part, cause, etc., espoused or supported by the agent.

- c1430 *Chev. Assigne* 219 'Go we forthe, fader,' quod þe childe, 'vpon goddes halfe!'
 1445 tr. *Claudian's De Consulatu Stilichonis* in *Anglia* (1905) 28 256 [They] seyen the duke of yorke hath god vpon his
 side.
 1611 B. JONSON *Catiline* v. sig. M2 The least man, that falles vpon our party This day..Shall walke at pleasure, in the tents
 of rest.
 a1616 W. SHAKESPEARE *King John* (1623) I. i. 34 Till she had kindled France and all the world, Vpon the right and party
 of her sonne.
 1822 P. B. SHELLEY *Hellas* 23 Famine and Pestilence, And Panic, shall wage war upon our side.

c. Engaged in assailing, or about to attack.

- 1568 R. GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 291 The French men were so mingled among their enemies, that some time there was fue

men vpon one Gentleman.

- c1670 A. WOOD *Life* (1891) I. 114 Captain Walter had six rebels upon him, and..fought it out so..gallantly that [etc.].
 1701 W. WOTTON *Hist. Rome* 269 The Senate heard that Severus was just upon them.
 1719 D. DEFOE *Life Robinson Crusoe* 314 He saw five Men upon him.
 1721 D. DEFOE *Mem. Cavalier* (1840) 211 We are all undone, the roundheads are upon us.
 1860 *All Year Round* 28 July 384 Certain manœuvres, which had just time to result., when the squall was upon us.
 1885 *Manch. Examiner* 10 June 4/7 The crisis..is upon us at last.

†d. Having a tendency to be; verging towards; bordering on. Frequently with *little*.
Obsolete.

to run upon — 2c at RUN *v.* Phrasal verbs 2.

- 1707 LD. RABY in T. Hearne *Remarks & Coll.* (1886) II. 43 He is..a little upon y^e dirty as all y^e Poles are.
 1716 in *London Gaz.* No. 5438/4 Lost., a large Brilliant., a little upon the Blue.
 1738 J. SWIFT *Compl. Coll. Genteel Conversat.* 180 I think, he's a little upon the silly, or so.
 1740 tr. C. de F. de Mouhy *Fortunate Country Maid* I. 33 A Countenance much upon the Wheedler and the Devote.

5.

a. Within the bounds or limits of; in; = *ON prep.* 7 (Cf. quot. 1773 at *UPO' prep.*)

- a1400 *Sir Beues* (A.) 4180 [He] karf..Doun riȝt þe viser wiþ is swerd And half þe her vpon is berd.
 1608 W. SHAKESPEARE *King Lear* xx. 242 Seeke him out vpon The British partie.
 1639 W. LAUD *Wks.* (1853) V. 364 I find by the bishop's certificate, that he hath constantly resided upon his episcopal houses.
 1765 *Museum Rusticum* 4 449 His country seat, possessed and lived upon by his ancestors for several generations.
 1823 W. SCOTT *St. Ronan's Well* II. ix. 232 Miss Clara..just sitting upon the wind of a door [= in a draught].

†b. Denoting ratio between two numbers, etc.; = *PER prep.* 1, *IN prep.* 9. *Obsolete.*
rare.

- 1622 G. DE MALYNES *Consuetudo* I. xxxvi. 195 In regarde of lechage of tenne or fiteene vpon the hundreth.
 1739 C. LABELYE *Short Acct. Piers Westm. Bridge* 76 The Ascent..not being above one Foot perpendicular upon 20 Feet slope.
 1739 C. LABELYE *Short Acct. Piers Westm. Bridge* 78.

6.

a. Denoting the day of an occurrence, regarded as a unit of time. Frequently also with *night, morn, morrow, eve(n, time, †tide, †hour, occasion, etc.* = *ON prep.* 8.

once upon a time: see *ONCE adv.* 2b.

- 1338 R. MANNYNG *Chron.* (1810) 37 Unto Kyngeston..Com S. Dunstan, opon a Sonenday.
 1390 J. GOWER *Confessio Amantis* I. 3 Now upon this tyde Men se the world..so diversified, That [etc.].
 a1400 (► a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Vesp.) l. 19810 Apon a dai at þe tid o non, An angel com.
 ?a1400 *Arthur* 539 And sone after vpon an owr He hurde of Mordred.
 1424 in C. L. Kingsford *Stonor Lett. & Papers* (1919) I. 36 Writen at Sarum apon þe seynt Michell euen.
 a1470 in C. L. Kingsford *Stonor Lett. & Papers* (1919) I. 111 My wyf and y welbe with you uppon Ester.
 1535 *Bible* (Coverdale) Job i. 6 Now vpon a tyme..the seruantes of God came and stode before the Lorde.
 1551 R. ROBINSON in tr. T. More *Vtopia* sig. ✕ii Vpon a tyme, when tidynges came [etc.].
 1631 J. WEEVER *Anc. Funerall Monuments* 471 Once euery yeare vpon the same day of his Anniuerse.

- 1663 in *Extracts State Papers* (Friends' Hist. Soc.) (1911) 2nd Ser. 183 [They] were all brought before the mayor vpon the 28th of December.
- 1672 T. GODDEN *Catholicks No Idolaters* 35 Would an Impartial Reader (to use Dr. Taylor's expression upon another occasion) say [etc.]?
- 1711 J. ADDISON *Spectator* No. 164. ¶4 Upon the Day on which..their Marriage was to have been solemnized.
- 1771 E. GRIFFITH *Hist. Lady Barton* III. 285 I wrote upon the instant, but..cannot recollect what I said.
- a1821 J. KEATS *Eve St. Mark* 1 Upon a Sabbath-day it fell.
- 1868 LD. TENNYSON *Lucretius* 24 He..woke upon a morn That mock'd him.

†b. In, at, or during (any period of time); in the course of; = *ON prep.* 8b. *Obsolete.*

(a)

- 1390 J. GOWER *Confessio Amantis* I. 314 [He] made upon the derke nyht..Gret fyr.
- 1427–9 *Rolls of Parl.* IV. 364 To make a Toure to be uppon day light a redy Bekyn.
- 1529 in I. S. Leadam *Select Cases Star Chamber* (1911) II. 34 Thomas..directed..the hole recordys..vppon a yere past or more to vs..to examen the same.
- c1540 (▶ ?a1400) *Destr. Troy* 8684 Wyth myche dole vppon dayes & on derke nightes, Sum walt into wodenes.
- 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. N. de Nicolay *Nauigations Turkie* i. xix Vpon the euening the fire..got into their powder.
- a1616 W. SHAKESPEARE *Measure for Measure* (1623) IV. i. 34 Vpon the Heauy midle of the night.
- 1661 *Act 13 Chas. II* c. 9 §27 No man in or belonging to the Fleet shall sleep upon his Watch.
- 1673 in J. A. Picton *City of Liverpool: Select. Munic. Rec.* (1883) I. 247 Offences committed by them the same day upon the said election.
- [1820 J. KEATS *Eve of St. Agnes* in *Lamia & Other Poems* 86 Upon the honey'd middle of the night.]

(b)

- 1591 H. UNTON *Corr.* (1847) 103 Upon nowe advertisement is come from the Kinge.
- 1638 K. DIGBY in G. Digby & K. Digby *Lett. conc. Relig.* (1651) 19 To tell you what upon the present..occurrereth to me.

†c. Within the space of (a specified period of time); = *ON prep.* 8c. *Obsolete.*

- a1400 (▶ a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Fairf. 14) l. 510 Be iournays qua ga hit may, fourty myle a-pon a day.
- c1405 (▶ c1387–95) G. CHAUCER *Canterbury Tales Prol.* (Hengwrt) (2003) l. 704 Vp on a day he gat hym moore moneye Than þ^e the person gat in Monthes tweye.
- 1457–8 in *Acta Dom. Conc.* II. Introd. 15 He sall warne thame to pass to the kings chapell..apone xl dais.
- 1459 *Rolls of Parl.* V. 369/2 A commaundement..to be redy to come..upon a day warnyng.
- ?a1585 A. MONTGOMERIE *Misc. Poems* vii. 35 Rome wes not biggit all vpon ane day.
- 1674 *Reg. Privy Council Scott.* 3rd Ser. IV. 299 [The lords] ordaines letters of horning upon 48 houres to be direct for that effect.

d. At the point of; close on, touching on; = *ON prep.* 8d.

Usually with verbal noun or gerund: see group (a). *upon the point of*: see *POINT n.* ¹ *Phrases* ii.

(a)

- ▶ c1426 J. AUDELAY *Poems* (1931) 6 Haue mynd apon 3oure endyng, of þe payns of helle.
- 1491 *Acta Dom. Conc.* (1839) 205/1 I am apone my saling and may nocht lang tary.
- 1530 J. PALSgrave *Lesclarcissement* 423/1 I am upon my lieng downe, as a woman that is nere her tyme.
- 1604 T. DEKKER & T. MIDDLETON *Honest Whore* v. i. 4 Wife. Comes the duke this way. *Pio.* He's vpon comming mistris.
- 1611 R. COTgrave *Dict. French & Eng. Tongues* *Emmati*..faded, vpon withering.
- 1670 A. MARVELL *Let.* 10 Mar. in *Poems & Lett.* (1971) II. 103 I intended more but the post also is upon going.
- 1707 T. HEARNE *Remarks & Coll.* (1886) II. 10 The King of Prussia is upon sending to the..Library all the..medals.

1774 O. GOLDSMITH *Grecian Hist.* I. vii. 247 The truce..was just upon expiring.

1842 C. WHITEHEAD *Richard Savage* I. i I was just upon commending them to a lower place.

elliptical.

1899 *Daily News* 12 Sept. 4/7 The new..recreation garden..is just upon finished.

(b)

1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. N. de Nicolay *Nauigations Turkie* I. xix. 22 As wee were vpon our departure.

1626 N. BRETON *Fantasticks* sig. D 3^v Few that are merry, but..wenches that are vpon the mariage.

1632 P. MASSINGER *Maid of Honour* v. i. sig. K2 Signor Adorni is return'd! now upon entrance.

1666 A. MARVELL *Let.* 1 Dec. in *Poems & Lett.* (1971) II. 47 The Smyrna fleet..is upon returne.

c1680 E. HICKERINGILL *Hist. Whiggism in Wks.* (1716) I. 133 They did so many Irrational, Senseless, and Destructive Acts, that almost all lay at Stake..and was just upon the go.

1722 A. POPE *Corr.* May (1956) II. 115 I'm told you are all upon removal very speedily.

1775 S. J. PRATT *Liberal Opinions* (1783) IV. cxxxiii. 206 Our old rector will make a subject by and by;..he's certainly upon the go [= dying].

1797 M. ROBINSON *Walsingham* IV. 318 The good fellow is upon the go; his life is not worth six weeks' purchase.

1821 LD. BYRON *Marino Faliero* (2nd issue) IV. ii. 116 *Doge.* How goes the night? *Ber. F.* Almost upon the dawn.

†e. By or for (a specified time). *Obsolete.*

1510 *Brasenose Coll. Doc.* (MS.) A³ 43 To make me a Dublett and a Jacket upon Crystmasse next comyng.

†f. For the extent or period of. *Obsolete.*

Cf. *upon a stretch* at *STRETCH* n. 6a.

1548 *Hall's Vnion: Henry VII* f. xlix^v Which sickenes contynued vpon fyue monethes.

7.

a. On the occasion of; = *ON* prep. 9.

In frequent use c1670–1825. Group (b) illustrates *obsolete* usages.

See also *OCCASION* n.¹ Phrases 1b, *SIGHT* n.¹ 4d, 6b, *SUDDEN* n. 1b, *SUDDENTY* n. 1b, *VIEW* n. Phrases 2.

(a)

c1440 J. CAPGRAVE *Life St. Katherine* I. 981 Vp-on this hir letter hath she sent.

1492 in *12th Rep. Hist. MSS Comm. App. Pt. IV: MSS Duke of Rutland* (1888) I. 13 in *Parl. Papers* (C. 5614) LXIV. 1 To thentent that uppon conueracion we may shewe unto you our minde.

1515 in I. S. Leadam *Select Cases Star Chamber* (1911) II. 79 The saide artificers seyne that by the grauntis made uppon their first corporacion it appereth that [etc.].

1566 T. DRANT tr. Horace *Medicinable Morall* sig. Bv His maister, hangs him straighte vpponte.

1629 *Vse of Law* 3 in J. Doddridge *Lawyers Light* If one kill another vpon a suddaine quarrell.

1662 C. CULPEPER in *Extracts State Papers* (Friends' Hist. Soc.) (1911) 2nd Ser. 152 (*note*) I haue some Quakers..in prison which I doe intend to let goe upon taking the Oath.

1698 J. FRYER *New Acct. E.-India & Persia* 74 The Banyans repairing to the Suburbs upon Tattoo.

1705 J. COLLIER *Ess. Moral Subj.: Pt. III* I. 13 Was ever..any Fencer, worth the naming, heard to groan upon a Hit?

1712 J. ADDISON *Spectator* No. 369. ¶17 They..were cast into Hell upon their Disobedience.

1774 O. GOLDSMITH *Hist. Earth* II. 309 Upon comparing the various animals..with each other, we shall find [etc.].

1817 J. MILL *Hist. Brit. India* II. v. iv. 450 They retired upon the brisk advancement of the grenadiers.

1841 E. W. LANE tr. *Thousand & One Nights* I. 101 Upon which they raised their heads, and answered as before.

1890 LD. ESHER in *Law Times' Rep.* 63 734/1 [He] shall be released from that obligation upon the Director undertaking the case.

(b)

- 1510 *Reg. Privy Seal Scot.* I. 307/1 The slauchter..committit be him apoun subdante.
- 1577 R. HOLINSHED *Hist. Eng.* 35/1 in *Chron.* I Cesar..writeth that immediatly vpon knowledge had..he woulde inuade Brytaine.
- 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseudodoxia Epidemica* 269 The Silly-how, that sometimes is found about the heads of children upon their birth.
- 1707 T. HEARNE *Remarks & Coll.* (1886) II. 63 Ye sneaking Villains, like Worms upon a Rain, crawl'd out.
- 1726 J. SWIFT *Gulliver* I. II. v. 89 Yet often upon a pinch, I was forced to work like a common Mariner.
- 1736 BP. J. BUTLER *Analogy of Relig.* I. iv. 72 Persons may be betrayed into wrong Behaviour upon Occasions of Surprise.
- 1791 J. BOSWELL *Life Johnson* anno 1763 I. 222 [Johnson:] He has no tenants..who will follow him to the field upon any emergency.

b. Immediately after; following on.

- 1390 J. GOWER *Confessio Amantis* II. 71 Whan that he this tale herde, Hou upon that the king ansuerde With Hercules he moste feighte.
- 1496 *Coventry Leet Bk.* 573 And what persones þat be absent þat day vppon warnyng shall pay xij d.
- 1523 LD. BERNERS tr. J. Froissart *Cronycles* I. cxlviii. 177 [They] conquered..townes and castels one vpon the other by force.
- 1546 J. HEYWOOD *Dialogue Prouerbes Eng. Tongue* II. i. sig. Fiv So soone vpon supper.., Slepe maketh yll..digestion.
- 1600 W. SHAKESPEARE *Merchant of Venice* IV. i. 381 I am content..to render it vpon his death vnto the Gentleman.
- 1615 J. DAY *Festivals* 268 Whether the Fault were vnawares, or vpon advisement.
- 1645 BP. J. HALL *Remedy Discontentm.* xv. 80 After he had upon ten years siege, taken the rich City.
- 1688 R. HOLME *Acad. Armory* II. 181/2 The bite or sting of a Scorpion is present Death if..[Swine] drink upon it.
- 1711 G. HICKES *Two Treat.* (ed. 3) II. i. 199 I have wrote..not rashly, or by Chance, but upon thought.
- 1748 B. ROBINS & R. WALTER *Voy. round World by Anson* II. xiii. 276 Immediately upon this fortunate supply they stood to the westward.
- 1780 *Mirror* No. 95 I left my own house immediately upon the discovery I made.
- 1814 J. AUSTEN *Mansfield Park* III. xi. 215 Coming as it generally did upon a week's previous inactivity.
- 1849 T. B. MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* I. v. 539 This plan had been dropped upon the detection of the Rye House Plot.
- 1883 HOWELLS in *Harper's Mag.* Dec. 79 The silence which his friend has absent-mindedly let follow upon his last words.
- elliptical.
- 1818 H. T. COLEBROOKE *On Import Colonial Corn* 183 The capital should at first be less productive if,..upon a balance, this become more fruitful.

†c. As soon as. Obsolete. rare.

- 1475 J. PASTON in *Paston Lett. & Papers* (2004) I. 484 I woll vppon as I heer from yow come to yow in alle hast possible.

†8. Denoting physical arrangement, order, etc., = in (masses, a row, etc.). Cf. ON prep. 10. rare.

- c1300 *Havelok* (Laud) (1868) 892 Als he lep þe kok vn-til, He shof hem alle upon an hyl.
- a1450 (► c1410) H. LOVELICH *Merlin* (1904) I. l. 1474 For thinges that ben past, j knowe, And thinges that ben comeng vppon a rowe.
- c1540 (► ?a1400) *Destr. Troy* 1991 The flode..Rose vppon rockes [= in high masses] as any ranke hylles.
- 1665 J. WEBB *Vindic. Stone-Heng Restored* 68 Nor [could] these have continued upon such a direct line, as still some of them seem to do.

9.

a. In (a particular or specified manner, etc.); = *ON prep.* 9.

See also *CROSS n.* 29, *HEAD n.* ¹ *Phrases 1m*, *LOFT n.* 2a, *SLY n.* 2, *SQUARE adj.* 12a, 12b.

- c1300 HAVELOK 468 Godard..tok þe maydnes bothe samen, Al-so it were up-on hiis gamen.
 1338 R. MANNYNG *Chron.* (1810) 25 Bot þat þise lowed men vpon English tellis, Right story can me not ken, þe certeynte what spellis.
 a1400–50 *Alexander* 3300 Like to þis werke, þat þis coppis opon kell~wyse knytt in þe woȝes.
 a1529 J. SKELTON *Magnyfycence* (?1530) sig. Biii Chanons can not counterfet but vpon thre.
 c1540 (▶ ?a1400) *Destr. Troy* 7359 There only was ordant of Ectors dethe, With all Soteltie to serche opon sere wise.
 1568 (▶ c1448) R. HOLLAND *Bk. Howlat* l. 828 in W. T. Ritchie *Bannatyne MS* (1930) IV. 153 The lordis leuch vpoun [a1525 *Asloan* apon] loft.
 a1616 W. SHAKESPEARE *As you like It* (1623) I. i. 1 It was vpon this fashion bequeathed me by will.
 1628 O. FELLTHAM *Resolves: 2nd Cent.* lxxxii. sig. Y6 Though he doth forbear to call for it, yet I beleue, vpon the like, thou owest him.
 1641 EARL OF MONMOUTH tr. G. F. Biondi *Hist. Civil Warres Eng.* I. III. 146 Charles de Lens..was slaine upon cold bloud.

†b. upon new *adv.* = *ANEW adv.* 1. *Obsolete. rare.*

- 1399 J. GOWER *In Praise of Peace* 315 Every dai it chaungeth uppon newe.

10.

a. Occupied with; engaged in; employed on; = *ON prep.* 12a.

For further illustration of group (a) see *GUARD n.* 5a, *PATROL n.* 1, *SENTRY n.* ¹ 3, *WATCH n.* 6b.

- (a)
 a1400 *Seuyn Sages* (W.) 190 He was ever upon his bok, And to his lore tok gret kepe.
 c1405 (▶ c1395) G. CHAUCER *Franklin's Tale* (Hengwrt) (2003) l. 217 Vp on this daunce, amonges othere men Daunced a Squier biforne Dorigen.
 1478 in *Acts Lords of Council Civil Causes* (1839) I. 19/1 Þe lordis..declarit þat þai wald nocht sit apoun na summondis quhil þe said xj day.
 1612 in *10th Rep. Royal Comm. Hist. MSS* (1885) App. I. 608 The Electour Palatine is now at the Haghe upon his voyage into England.
 1634 W. TIRWHYTT tr. J. L. G. de Balzac *Lett.* 154 Those who carve in Brasse or Marble waxe old upon their workes.
 1659 VANE in T. Burton *Diary* (1828) III. 171 Consider what it is we are upon, a Protector in the office of Chief Magistrate.
 1690 J. LOCKE *Two Treat. Govt.* I. xi. §146 When Mankind were but one People,..and were upon Building a City together.
 1705 T. HEARNE *Remarks & Coll.* (1885) I. 30 He designs to carry on the work, being now upon a III^d volume.
 1709 J. SWIFT *Project Advancem. Relig.* 14 Neither am I at present upon a wild speculative Project.
 1719 D. DEFOE *Farther Adventures Robinson Crusoe* 317 They seem'd to be upon their own Affairs.
 1740 S. RICHARDSON *Pamela* I. xxxi. 163 Well, Jacob, what do you stare at! Pray mind what you're upon.
 1784 in B. Ward *Dawn Catholic Revival* (1909) I. iv. 81 That they may be upon the mission all *unius moris in Domino*.
 1859 C. DICKENS *Tale of Two Cities* II. i. 34 He was never absent..unless upon an errand.

(b)

- 1574 *St. Austens Manuell* in *Certaine Prayers S. Augustines Medit.* sig. Piiij I will..stand vpon my gard, and with waking eyes will I sing in my hart.
 1647–8 in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* Oct. (1917) 573 There was onely townesmen upon the garde, and those expressed great joy to see Sir Hugh.
 1678 S. BUTLER *Hudibras: Third Pt.* III. i. 27 He was upon pursuit To take you somewhere hereabout.
 1681 VISCOUNTESS CAMPDEN *Let.* 25 Aug. in *Hist. MSS Comm.: 12th Rep.: App. Pt. V: MSS Duke of Rutland* (1889) 56 in

Parl. Papers (C. 5889–II) XLIV. 393 Lady Skidmore..was at Mr. Conisby's house upon a visette.

a1716 R. SOUTH *12 Serm.* (1717) VI. 378 No Man would spend the Night upon the Sentry, who [etc.].

b. Denoting state or condition. Cf. *ON prep.* 12.

See also BEHAVIOUR *n.* 3, BY *n.*² 2b, CASE *n.*¹ Phrases 1, CONTENT *n.*² 2, DUTY *n.* 5e, FRET *n.*² 6, LOAN *n.*¹ 3, LOOSE *n.*² 1, OATH *n.* 1, PAROLE *n.*¹ 1, TRIAL *n.*¹ 12. The uses placed under (b) are obsolete.

(a)

c1290 *S. Eng. Leg.* I. 272/39 Ich am a man opon mi seruiz, and noman serui i-nelle Bote mi louerd.

a1400–50 *Alexander* 42 He was wyse enoȝe wurdis to reken..of ledes opon lyfe.

1525 LD. BERNERS tr. J. Froissart *Cronycles* II. lxxvii. [lxxiii.] 229 All suche..were styll in theyr owne houses vpon a redynes.

c1580 in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* July (1914) 517 You must kepe good wache by night and be upon your owne kepinge.

1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. N. de Nicolay *Nauigations Turkie* I. xi. 13 b The Caddy..keepeth the town vpon tribute vnder the king of Alger.

1628 O. FELLTHAM *Resolves: 2nd Cent.* iv. sig. H4 Their difference is neuer so much vpon the view, as then.

1657 EARL OF MONMOUTH tr. P. Paruta *Politick Disc.* 35 Large Plains in Italy, wherein he might fight the Romans upon great advantage.

1683 J. MOXON *Mech. Exercises* II. 95 It must with the Chissel be split upon a good Blood-Red-Heat in that place.

1706 G. FARQUHAR *Recruiting Officer* I. i. 4 A Granadeer..absent upon Furlow.

1769 O. GOLDSMITH *Rom. Hist.* (1786) II. 373 He never missep hitting..the fleetest animals, though upon full speed.

1788 C. REEVE *Exiles* I. 181 Poor Albert..had been upon the fret ever since I left him.

1801 'GABRIELLI' *Mysterious Husband* III. 86 The kettle was just upon the boil.

1823 R. SOUTHEY *Hist. Peninsular War* I. 686 The fate of the continent was upon the hazard.

(b)

1425 *Rolls of Parl.* IV. 290 For lake of Parsons..children have degged uncristend..and wymen opon chyld perechyd.

1535 *Bible* (Coverdale) 1 Chron. xiii. B Yf ye come vpon disceate, and to be mine aduersaries [vpō in text].

a1616 W. SHAKESPEARE *Othello* (1622) I. i. 101 And now in madnes..Vpon malicious brauery [1623 knauerie], dost thou come To start my quiet?

1707 J. STEVENS tr. F. de Quevedo *Comical Wks.* (1709) 45 Finding a Door upon the jar.

a1715 BP. G. BURNET *Hist. Own Time* (1724) I. 542 Lord Russel..was upon all the secret of his [sc. Rumsey's] going beyond sea.

1740 tr. C. de F. de Mouhy *Fortunate Country Maid* I. 266 I had left the Door upon the Jarr.

c. Indicating a sphere of activity or existence.

Partly with implication of locative sense: cf. 1b.

1487 in H. E. Malden *Cely Papers* (1900) 159 Mony goyth now uppon the bursse at a xjs iij^d ob. the nobull.

1589 'PASQUILL OF ENGLAND' *Returne of Pasquill* sig. Aij I little thought to meete thee so suddainly vpon the Exchange.

1645 J. HOWELL *Epistolæ Ho-elianæ* II. xv. 32 One may heare 7. or 8. sorts of tongues spoken upon their Bourses.

1709 R. STEELE *Tatler* No. 48. ¶4 I was curious to observe the Reception these Gentlemen met with upon Change.

1712 R. STEELE *Spectator* No. 266. ¶2 This Creature is what they call newly come upon the Town.

1791 J. BOSWELL *Life Johnson* anno 1763 I. 221 [Johnson:] A merchant upon the 'Change of London.

1822 W. IRVING *Bracebridge Hall* vii. 59 A dashing young ensign, just come upon the town.

1838 D. JERROLD *Men of Char.* II. 255 Again was John Applejohn upon the world.

1882 C. PEBODY *Eng. Journalism* xi. 79 He found employment upon the *Morning Post*.

d. With nouns denoting activity or progress.

See also GALLOP *n.* 1, GOG *n.*², HUNT *n.*² 1b, LISTEN *n.* 2, LONG RUN *n.* and *adj.*, SCRAMBLE *n.* 1, TROT *n.*¹ 1d.

- 1645 H. SLINGSBY *Diary* (1836) 176 Our horse, upon a Gallop without once drawing up.
- 1664 J. WILSON *Cheats* i. i. 2 I was out t'other Night upon the Randan.
- 1678 in *12th Rep. Royal Comm. Hist. MSS* (1890) App. v. 50 Lord Rochester hath bin att the gates of death, and so penitent that he is upon an amendment.
- 1728 C. CIBBER *Vanbrugh's Provok'd Husband* v. i. 78 You will every Day see hundreds as fast upon the Gallop, as she is.
- 1768 O. GOLDSMITH *Good Natur'd Man* i. 4 Every thing upon the waste.
- 1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Jan. 105 Grain of all kinds continues upon the advance.
- 1877 C. H. SPURGEON *Serm.* XXIII. 505 The leaves are just upon the turn, and the fall of the year is close at hand.

e. Denoting situation with a portion of time or space.

- 1632 T. HAWKINS tr. P. Matthieu *Vnhappy Prosperitie* 76 His life was now almost wholly wasted, he is upon the last hour.
- 1680 R. L'ESTRANGE tr. Erasmus *20 Select Colloquies* xx. 258 Observing the Woman to Yawn, and just upon her last Stretch, he put [etc.].
- 1694 *Narbrough's Acct. Several Late Voy.* 165 Before the Ship could Ware and bring to upon the other Tack, She struck.
- 1720 D. DEFOE *Life Capt. Singleton* 196 We being then upon our Starboard Tack.

11.

a. Indicating the basis or reason of reliance, trust, etc.

See also COUNT *v.* 9, DEPEND *v.* 1 5, HANG *v.* 13b (quot. 1817 at sense 7a), RELY *v.* 1 6, REST *v.* 1 14a, to stand upon — 1 at STAND *v.* Phrasal verbs 2, STAY *v.* 2b, 3b, SUSPEND *v.* 9, TRIST *v.* 1, TRUST *v.* 1.

- c1175 *Ormulum* (Burchfield transcript) l. 16724 & wha se lefeþþ upp onn himm þatt mann iss all unndemedd.
- ?c1225 (► ?a1200) *Ancrene Riwe* (Cleo. C.vi) (1972) 206 For þet stondunge is treowe trust of hardi bileaue up on godes strengðe.
- c1250 *Prayer to Virgin* 18 in *Old Eng. Misc.* 196 Al min hope is uppon þe.
- c1315 SHOREHAM *v.* 51 Four manere ioyen hy hedde here Of hyre sone so lef an dere, Wytnes opan þe godspelle.
- 1377 W. LANGLAND *Piers Plowman* B. i. 117 Þei leueden vppon hym þat lyed in þis manere.
- a1382 *Bible* (Wycliffite, E.V.) (Douce 369(1)) (1850) Isa. vii. 2 Siria restede vp on Effraym.
- 1509 *Reg. Privy Seal Scot.* I. 286/2 Ony proclamatioun..anent the intercommonyn and sitting apoun the Inglisemenis assouerans.
- 1574 R. SCOT *Perfite Platforme of Hoppe Garden* 2 I, for my part, relye not upon other mens opinions.
- 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. N. de Nicolay *Nauigations Turkie* i. xx. 24 [He] resolved [= relied] vppon so smal an assuraunce of the Bascha.
- a1616 W. SHAKESPEARE *Othello* (1622) i. iii. 294 My life vpon her faith: honest Iago, My Desdemona must I leaue to thee.
- 1640 W. LAUD *Wks.* (1853) III. 279 His Majesty's goodness was confident upon the fidelity of his subjects.
- 1767 B. GOOCH *Pract. Treat. Wounds* I. 241 It is fallacious, and by no means to be depended upon, as a Criterion.
- 1813 J. AUSTEN *Pride & Prejudice* I. vi. 6 Depend upon it,..I will visit them all.
- 1823 R. SOUTHEY *Hist. Peninsular War* I. 715 They counted upon succour from San Juan's troops.
- 1850 LD. TENNYSON *In Memoriam* xxxii. 51 Then one deep love doth supersede All other,..And rests upon the Life indeed.

b. According to; in agreement or accordance with; on the model of.

- (a)
- 1390 J. GOWER *Confessio Amantis* II. 108 I not if that be Sompnolence, Bot upon youre conscience, Min holi fader, demeth ye.
- c1450 (► c1400) *Sowdon of Babylon* (1881) l. 105 Comaundinge hem vppon her legeaunce To come.
- c1450 *Jacob's Well* (1900) 66 To make amendys fully in trewe restitucyoun, vp-on þi powere.

- c1475 (▶ c1425) *Avowing of King Arthur* (1984) l. 515 Quat is þi rawunsun, opon ry3te? Þe soth þou mon sayn.
 1516 in *Acta Parl. Scot.* (1875) XII. 37/1 He..behavis him swa towart..3oure brothir..that apou Ressounne na man sall be
 discontentit of his gyding.
 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. N. de Nicolay *Nauigations Turkie* I. xviii. 20 b The king..was set at libertie, vpon an accord and
 alliaunce which hee made.
 1664 in *Extracts State Papers* (Friends' Hist. Soc.) (1912) 3rd Ser. 226 I inform'd my Lord..that vpon my certaine
 knowledge a greate number would meete..att such a house.
 1698 J. FRYER *New Acct. E.-India & Persia* 54 Nothing remaining of it but only what is taken upon Chronicle.
 1702 J. VANBRUGH *False Friend* I. i I find you much upon my taste in this matter.
 1748 S. RICHARDSON *Clarissa* VII. xxvii. 120 Here Mr. Belford gives the substance of it upon his memory.
 1867 J. R. LOWELL *Fitz Adam's Story* 464 An honest cord [of wood] in Jethro still would fail By a good foot upon the
 Deacon's scale.

(b)

- a1225 *Leg. Kath.* 994 Hwi schulde he forhohien to wurdē to þet þing þet is iwend [= formed] upon him?
 1563 J. SHUTE *First Groundes Archit.* sig. Biv This pillar [is]..made by the Ionians vpon the Simetrie of a strong man.
 1777 *Ann. Reg.* 1776 148 A rifle gun upon a new construction.
 1790 W. WRIGHT *Grotesque Archit.* 11 The four minarets at the angles bring the plan upon a square of forty feet.
 1791 J. SMEATON *Narr. Edystone Lighthouse* §85 Upon these ideas I drew up..the following plan.
 1863 M. HOWITT tr. F. Bremer *Greece & Greeks* I. viii. 264 The new constitution of Greece is formed very much upon that
 of France.
 1882 C. PEBODY *Eng. Journalism* xxii. 172 The Society papers..are to some extent modelled upon the Reviews.

c. Indicating the ground, basis, occasion, or reason of an action, opinion, etc.; =

ON prep. 11.

In very frequent use from c1525. In group (b) with allusion to literal uses (sense 1).

(a)

- c1485 (▶ 1456) G. HAY *Bk. Law of Armys* (2005) 169 A symple knyght may nocht lede a baroun..apon his sauf condyt.
 a1500 in C. T. Martin *Chancery Proc. 15th Cent.* in *Archaeologia* (1904) 59 4 Uppon untrue verydyte yoven in London
 ther lieth none atteynt.
 1515 *Reg. Privy Seal Scot.* I. 403/2 The slauchter..committit apoun forthocht felony.
 1554–5 in A. Feuillerat *Documents Office of Revels Edward VI* (1914) 170 In a redines to serve vpon further warnynge.
 1584 R. SCOT *Discouerie Witchcraft* x. i. 177 Those witches, that make men beleue they can prophesie vpon dreames.
 1602 W. S. *True Chron. Hist. Ld. Cromwell* sig. F4 The great Lord Cromwell arreasted vpon treason.
 1647–8 in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* Oct. (1917) 569 How..Cholmeley came first to be employed in the Parliament service, and upon
 what grounds hee quitt the same.
 1697 K. CHETWOOD *Life Virgil* in J. Dryden tr. Virgil *Wks.* sig. **4^v He has solv'd more Phænomena of Nature upon sound
 Principles, than Aristotle in his Physics.
 1722 D. DEFOE *Jrnl. Plague Year* 14 Upon these Arguments my Brother chang'd my Resolutions again.
 1747 W. GOULD *Acct. Eng. Ants* Pref. Upon this Reason my Lord Bacon does not approve of the historical Method of
 writing in Philosophy.
 1787 J. WHITAKER *Mary Queen of Scots Vindicated* I. 62 They thus condemn the Queen..upon letters unauthenticated by
 the producers.
 1827 W. SCOTT *Chron. Canongate* Introd. Invernahyle obtained from the Chevalier his prisoner's freedom upon parole.
 1846 *Chambers's Jrnl.* 31 Oct. 280/2 Upon the most insubstantial of pretexts.
 1872 H. P. LIDDON *Some Elements Relig.* i. 16 The most intellectual Gnostics were Sensualists; Sensualists upon a theory
 and with deliberation.

(b)

- a1400–50 *Alexander* 4641 Pure is 3oure tecches, Mare fonden opon foly þan ficchid on reson.
 1565 SIR R. MAITLAND in *Maitland Folio MS.* 23 Grund all thy doing vpon suthfastnes.

- 1573 G. HARVEY *Let.-bk.* (1884) 27 I..tould him I wuld bilde uppon him.
- 1672 T. GODDEN *Catholicks No Idolaters* 23 This is the major Proposition of his Syllogism, and if this fail, the Charge he builds upon it, must needs fall.
- 1711 J. ADDISON *Spectator* No. 9. ¶8 Our Modern celebrated Clubs are founded upon Eating and Drinking.
- 1814 J. AUSTEN *Mansfield Park* III. x. 207 He particularly built upon a very happy..autumn there this year.
- 1844 A. BERESFORD-HOPE *Ess.* 111 This..does give us very different ground to go upon.
- 1878 J. P. HOPPS *Princ. Relig.* iii. 13 Upon this great truth..we base all our hopes.

†d. Of (a cause of death or illness). *Obsolete.*

- c1420 *Brut* 344 Mony a worthi man yn þat viage deid vpon þe Flix.
- 1510 in I. S. Leadam *Select Cases Star Chamber* (1911) II. 73 Vppon the seid enprisonement the same John..deyed within xij howtes.
- 1600 P. HOLLAND tr. Florus *Breviaries* CXL, in tr. Livy *Rom. Hist.* 1264 Upon which fracture he died thirtie daies after.
- 1645 H. SLINGSBY *Diary* (1836) 163 Y^e Gentlewoman y^t had lived in it dead upon Grief.
- 1696 A. TELFAIR *New Confut. Sadducism* 10 Which frightned him so much, that he fell sick upon it immediately.

e. Indicating means of subsistence or existence, or an article of food furnishing sustenance.

Sometimes = 'after having taken or consumed': see (c).

(a)

- 1457 J. HARDYNG *Chron.* in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* Oct. (1912) 747 His lyfelode exceded noght all clere An hundreth marke to leue vpon in dede.
- 1490 W. CAXTON tr. *Fourre Sonnes of Aymon* (1885) iii. 98 We have loste our store of vytaylles, so that we have noo thyng to lyve upon.
- 1564 in F. J. Furnivall *Child-marriages, Divorces, & Ratifications Diocese Chester* (1897) 125 Aspshawe is a very poore man, and liveth apon his neibours.
- 1583 P. STUBBES *Second Pt. Anat. Abuses* sig. F8^v [They] are to be compelled to worke, and not to liue vpon other mens labours.
- 1600 B. JONSON *Every Man out of his Humor* Dram. Pers. sig. Aiv *Shift*. A Thredbare Sharke. One that..liues vpon lendings.
- 1600 J. PORY tr. J. Leo Africanus *Geogr. Hist. Afr.* v. 249 Monasteries..maintained vpon the common beneuolence of the citie.
- 1625 C. BURGESS *New Discouery Personal Tithes* 45 All liuing vpon Fishing.
- 1713 R. STEELE *Englishman* No. 24. 161 A whimsical Fellow..liv'd upon setting Stones in Wrist-Buttons.
- 1884 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 9 Sept. 3/1 The lady did not indeed say that she lived *with* her father and mother, but she lived *upon* them.
- 1885 *Law Times Rep.* 52 651/1 He earned nothing, and he lived upon some money of mine.

(b)

- c1440 *Pallad. on Husb.* x. 76 Til May hit wol suffice vppon to feede.
- ?a1560 L. DIGGES *Geom. Pract.: Pantometria* (1571) Pref. sig. B j Suche two footed Moules and Todes whom..nature hath ordayned to..suck vpon the muck.
- 1600 J. PORY tr. J. Leo Africanus *Geogr. Hist. Afr.* vi. 276 They liue vpon the flesh of Ostriches and camels.
- 1678 N. WANLEY *Wonders Little World* v. i. §94. 467/2 'Tis thought he surfeited upon Melons.
- 1713 R. STEELE *Guardian* No. 34 He..breakfasted upon toast and ale.
- 1746 P. FRANCIS & W. DUNKIN tr. Horace *Satires* II. iii. 221 While Moths upon his rotting Carpets fed.
- 1818 G. S. FABER *Horæ Mosaicæ* (ed. 2) II. 281 If the Dominical Supper be a feast upon a sacrifice.
- 1832 H. MARTINEAU *Life in Wilds* ii. 26 The grass it fed upon.

1885 *Manch. Examiner* 16 June 5/1 M. Henze fed his prize oxen upon silage.

elliptical.

1717 M. PRIOR *Alma* III. 243 Was ever Tartar fierce or cruel, Upon the Strength of Water-Gruel.

1740 H. BRACKEN *Farriery Improv'd* (ed. 2) II. v. 109 A young Horse may look pretty sleek upon Hay only.

1895 G. MEREDITH *Amazing Marriage* I. i. 13 The clergyman,..renouncing strong drinks, because he found that he 'cursed better upon water'.

(c)

1663 R. BOYLE *Some Considerations Usefulness Exper. Nat. Philos.* II. vi. 185 Though..[it] did make her sickish, especially, when she slept upon it.

1829 W. SCOTT *Jrnl.* 5 July (1946) 91 So to roost upon a crust of bread and a glass of small beer, my usual supper.

†f. At (an expense, cost, etc.). *Obsolete.*

c1400 *R. Gloucester's Chron.* (Rolls) 3799 Al þe bachelerie..he nom in is compaynie..vp [*v.rr.* vp on, vppon] is coust.

1476 in T. Thomson *Acts Lords Auditors* (1839) 49/1 Pare to remain apoun þare awin expenss.

a1513 H. BRADSHAW *Lyfe St. Werburge* (1521) II. xv. sig. p.vi Many shyps were made vpon the kynges cost.

1563 *Ref. Privy Council Scotl.* I. 239 To commande thame to warde, to remane thairin upon thair awne expense.

1577 M. HANMER tr. Socrates Scholasticus VII. xxxiv, in *Aunc. Eccl. Hist.* 396 He had buylded vpon his owne costes and charges the sepulchres and tumbes.

1674 *Reg. Privy Counc. Scot.* IV. 278 A mudwall rowme..built upon his owne coast.

1711 in *10th Rep. Royal Comm. Hist. MSS* (1885) App. v. 124 Each company..was subsisted upon the cost of every captain for three months.

g. Denoting security of a loan, etc.

1474 W. CAXTON tr. *Game & Playe of Chesse* (1883) 121 The besant..was holden & gaged vpon an ymage.

1562 J. HEYWOOD *Fifth Hundred Epygrams* (new ed.) xciii. in *Wks.* sig. Bbjv No man will one peny lende upon it.

1611 *Bible* (King James) Neh. v. 4 Wee haue borrowed money..vpon our lands and vine~ yards.

1677 A. YARRANTON *England's Improvem.* 7 Moneys lent upon Goods at very easie Interest.

1707 *London Gaz.* No. 4333/8 They will..Lend Money upon Tallies or other good Securities, at 5 l. per Cent.

1766 LD. KAMES *Remarkable Decisions Court of Session 1730–52* 40 The money is secured..upon land.

1791 J. BOSWELL *Life Johnson* anno 1765 I. 268 [Johnson:] Security being taken upon the property.

1861 M. PATTISON in *Westm. Rev.* Apr. 407 He assigns 1000 marks..to his son's wife, secured upon the Swiss possessions of his house.

1868 J. E. T. ROGERS *Man. Polit. Econ.* iv. 42 If [a banker]..issues notes upon no property at all, the issue is fraudulent.

1885 *Act 48 & 49 Victoria* c. 54 §11 Any mortgage or charge duly created..upon the profits of any benefice.

†h. On condition of. *Obsolete.*

1516 *Reg. Privy Seal Scotl.* I. 422/2 The kingis grace dischargis thaim apone thair remaining in ward for the said errour.

a1616 W. SHAKESPEARE *Henry VI, Pt. 1* (1623) IV. v. 36 Vpon my Blessing I command thee goe.

1626 in J. A. Picton *City of Liverpool: Select. Munic. Rec.* (1883) I. 199 Maister Lappage doth..promise that hee will continew his ministry..upon true payment and receiuing the afforesaid allowance.

1662 E. STILLINGFLEET *Origines Sacrae* III. iii. §5 If it were suitable to Gods nature to promise life to man upon obedience.

†i. Out of; with; by the use of. *Obsolete. rare.*

1553 T. WILSON *Arte Rhetorique* (1580) 42 He did not make the wife vppon the same claie, whereof he made man.

1683 J. MOXON *Mech. Exercises* II. 17 That his Letter be Cast upon good Mettal, that it may last the longer.

j. In many phrases, as *upon..accord*, *on (also ~~upon~~) account of*, *upon composition*, *upon condition*, *upon design*, *upon distrust*, *upon envy*, *upon foot*, *upon fraud*, *upon head*, *upon lease*, *upon matter*, *upon purpose*, *upon score*, *upon shame*, *upon suspicion*, *upon trust*, *upon whole*, for which see the nouns.

12. At the risk or with the certainty of incurring or suffering (a pain, penalty, etc.); on peril of; = **ON prep. 16.**

See also **PAIN** *n.* ¹ 1b, **PENALTY** *n.* 1.

- c1384 G. CHAUCER *Hous of Fame* III. 1570 That he shuld fast goon Vpon the peyn to be blynde.
 c1420 *Contin. Brut* 384 þe King commaunded to..late hem passe yn pees, vpon deth.
 c1420 *Contin. Brut* 385 [He] chargyd ham, vpon her lyf, to kepe wel the toun and þe Castell.
 1480 W. CAXTON *Descr. Brit.* 9 Walsshmen shold not passe that dyche with wepen vpon a grete payne.
 1540 *Acts Privy Council* (1837) VII. 21 To temperate his tongue hereafter upon adventure of further punishment.
 a1554 W. CHOLMELEY *Request & Suite* (1853) 19 Commaundyng..the Aldermen, upon the losse of their auctoritie and office,..to see [etc.].
 1596 *Raigne of Edward III* sig. A4 With threats, Vppon a penaltie inioynd to come.
 1603 R. PARSONS *2nd Pt. Treat. Conuersions* in *Treat. Three Conuersions Eng.* I. xii. 625 The Duke protesteth the contrary (vpon his death).
 1656 EARL OF MONMOUTH tr. T. Boccalini *Ragguagli di Parnasso* 126 I have,..upon severe punishment, inhibited the translation of my Alcheron.
 1699 R. BENTLEY *Diss. Epist. Phalaris* (new ed.) 439 He order'd every man upon the pain of death to bring in all the money he had.

13. Indicating that which forms the basis of revenue, profit, fines, taxation, lending, etc.; = **ON prep. 17.**

See also **RETIRE** *v.* 4c(b) (quot. 1806 at sense 2b), **TAX** *n.* ¹ 1.

- 1466 in T. Thomson *Acts Lords Auditors* (1839) 4/2 [He] sall..resaue þe soume of mone aucht till him vppoun þe said annuel.
 1495 *Act 11 Hen. VII* c. 43 Preamble So that the seid Erle upon his seid leasses.., do reserve asmuch rentis..as be nowe usuell.
 1535 *Bible* (Coverdale) Neh. v. 3 Let vs borowe money of the kinge vpon vsury.
 1544 in I. S. Leadam *Select Cases Star Chamber* (1911) II. 217 They so offending to be payned opon a certen some of money.
 ?1677 W. PETTY *Polit. Arithm.* (1699) 272 Such a part of the full value of their Commodities, as may possibly be lost upon the sale of them.
 1719 T. D'URFEY *Wit & Mirth* I. 333 Five hundred Pounds upon the brown Bay still.
 1798 *Hull Advertiser* 24 Mar. 2/3 Insurance upon..outhouses, and upon unthreshed stock therein.
 1845 R. W. HAMILTON *Inst. Pop. Educ.* x. 278 How can the State raise the amount? Is it not to be raised upon the people?
 1892 *Law Times* 94 104/1 A commission of over 60 per cent. upon the sums received.

II. Of motion or direction towards a position, thing or person, state, etc.

14.

a. Upward so as to place or be on a surface, point, etc. Cf. **ON prep. 18.**

- c1175 *Ormulum* (Burchfield transcript) l. 11959 þe deofell brohhte iesu crist. Wiþþ utenn o þe temmple. Vpp onn an sæte. upp o þe rof.

- c1300 *Havelok* (Laud) (1868) 1942 He lep up on a stede lith.
- a1325 (► c1250) *Gen. & Exod.* (1968) l. 3899 Moyses ðor made a wirme of bras, And henget hege up-on a saft.
- a1400 *Seuyn Sages* (W.) 2318 Vpon his palfrai lep Catoun.
- 1470–85 T. MALORY *Morte d'Arthur* IX. xxx. 384 They came vpon sir launcelot sodenly and vnnethe he myght putte vpon hym his helme.
- 1470–85 T. MALORY *Morte d'Arthur* XVI. xv. 684 Therfore starte vpon thy hors.
- 1487 (► a1380) J. BARBOUR *Bruce* (St. John's Cambr.) VIII. 471 In gret hy thair hors hint thai, And stert apon thame sturdely.
- 1535 *Bible* (Coverdale) Joel ii. 9 They shal clymme vp vpon the houses.
- 1627 M. DRAYTON *Nimphidia* in *Battaile Agincourt* 120 Flye Cranion her Chariottere, Vpon the Coach-box getting.
- 1639 S. DU VERGER tr. J.-P. Camus *Admirable Events* 130 He leapes upon his Mule.
- 1725 R. BRADLEY *Chomel's Dictionaire (Econometique at Pears* Mount them one upon another Steeplewise.
- 1847 LD. TENNYSON *Princess* III. 57 To uplift the woman's fall'n divinity Upon an even pedestal with man.
- 1854 H. MILLER *My Schools & Schoolmasters* xxi. 446 A large loligo..had thrown itself high and dry upon the beach.

b. To or towards a position on a surface, etc.; = *on prep.* 18.

Group (b) corresponds to sense 1c; group (c) illustrates non-physical uses.

(a)

- c1175 *Ormulum* (Burchfield transcript) l. 14667 Snip itt alls itt wære an shep. & le33 itt upp onn allterr.
- a1325 (► c1250) *Gen. & Exod.* (1968) l. 3949 Vp-on hise asse his sadel he dede.
- a1325 (► c1250) *Gen. & Exod.* (1968) l. 3186 On an gold gad ðe name god Is grauen, and leid up-on ðe flod.
- a1400 (► a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Vesp.) l. 8895 Vnwarli sco sett hir don Apon þis ilk tre.
- c1400 (► 1391) G. CHAUCER *Treat. Astrolabe* (Cambr. Dd.3.53) (1872) II. §7. 21 Ley thi label vp-on the same degree of the sonne.
- c1400 *St. Alexius* (Cotton) 257 They hylde water wppon hys hede.
- c1405 (► c1385) G. CHAUCER *Knight's Tale* (Hengwrt) (2003) l. 921 Som drope of pitee..Vp on vs wrecched wommen lat thow falle.
- c1430 *Two Cookery Bks.* 42 Pan take fayre pecez of Brede..vppe~on þe Eyroun.
- 1602 J. MARSTON *Antonios Reuenge* IV. iii. sig. H3 Her head sunk down vpon her brest.
- a1655 T. T. DE MAYERNE *Archimagirus Anglo-Gallicus* (1658) lxxxiv. 58 Lay this froth upon your sullibub as high as you can.
- 1697 J. DRYDEN tr. Virgil *Georgics* IV, in tr. Virgil *Wks.* 140 The various God..draws a Rock upon his dark Abode.
- 1728 E. CHAMBERS *Cycl.* If a Perpendicular be let fall upon the Base of an oblique angled Triangle.
- 1808 W. SCOTT *Marmion* II. i. 78 Upon the gale she stooped her side.
- 1844 J. JACK *Hist. St. Monance* xi. 74 The skipper placed upon the table a large wooden caup or platter.
- 1870 R. ANDERSON *Hist. Missions Amer. Board* IV. xxvi. 63 The mob rushed forward and trampled spitefully upon it.

elliptical.

- c1450 *Mirk's Festial* I. 5 Sle, sle, opon þe broche, rost hote.

(b)

- 1303 R. MANNYNG *Handlyng Synne* 952 Syttyþ dowun vppon 3oure knees.
- c1400 *26 Pol. Poems* 149/233 I set me doune apon my kne.
- 1486 *Bk. St. Albans* b iv b Softe and layserly fall oppon yowre kneys.
- 1535 *Bible* (Coverdale) Mark xv. 19 [They] fell vpon the kne, & worshipped him.
- a1578 R. LINDSAY *Hist. & Cron. Scotl.* (1899) I. 209 The said preist..kneillit doune wpoun his knie.
- a1616 W. SHAKESPEARE *Cymbeline* (1623) IV. ii. 289 Come on, away, apart vpon our knees.
- 1837 F. PALGRAVE *Merchant & Friar* (1844) 176 The Chancellor, dropping off the Woolsack upon his bended knees.
- 1876 F. K. ROBINSON *Gloss. Words Whitby* 'Up-end yourself,' get upon your legs.

(c)

- c1325 *Spec. Gy Warw.* 995 And anon god putte his fuisoun Vp-on hire mele.
- a1382 *Bible* (Wycliffite, E.V.) (Douce 369(1)) (1850) Job xxv. 3 Vp on whom shyneth not the liȝt of hym?
- 1461 *Rolls of Parl.* V. 463/2 Takyng upon hym..the Coroune and name of Kyng.
- 1535 *Bible* (Coverdale) Num. vi. D The Lorde make his face to shyne vpon the [vpō in text].
- 1656 EARL OF MONMOUTH tr. T. Boccalini *Ragguagli di Parnasso* II. vi. 210 Whereby they had put themselves..upon great difficulties.
- 1697 J. DRYDEN tr. Virgil *Georgics* IV, in tr. Virgil *Wks.* 145 The Nymphs, Companions of th' unhappy Maid, This punishment upon thy Crimes have laid.
- 1765 L. STERNE *Life Tristram Shandy* VIII. xxi. 99 I fell in love all at once..—it burst upon me..like a bomb.
- 1768 J. BOSWELL *Let.* 8 Feb. (1924) I. 145 I am thrown upon the wide world again.
- 1793 T. BEDDOES *Observ. Nature Demonstrative Evid.* 79 The magnitudes, being doubled upon themselves, increase so, that [etc.].
- 1816 LD. BYRON *Prisoner of Chillon* x A light broke in upon my brain.

c. Denoting incidence, seizure, hold, etc.; = *ON prep.* 14b.

- a1325 (▸ c1250) *Gen. & Exod.* (1968) I. 2339 Do cam iosep swilc rewōde up-on, He dede halle ut ðe toðere gon.
- 1398 J. TREVISA tr. Bartholomew de Glanville *De Proprietatibus Rerum* (Bodl.) XVII. cxv Ripe & igadered ere corrupcioune oþer rostinge falle vpon whete.
- 1530 J. PALSGRAVE *Lesclarcissement* 748/2 I take holde apon one, *jempoygne*.
- 1535 *Bible* (Coverdale) Psalms cxiv. 3 The paynes of hell gat holde vpon me.
- 1535 *Bible* (Coverdale) Prov. iii. 18 She is a tre of life to them that laye holde vpon her.
- 1546 in R. G. Marsden *Sel. Pleas Court Admiralty* (1894) I. 148 The sayde Leonard Sumpter..toke and seased uppon the same as lawfull wayff and thyng forsaken.
- 1632 W. LITHGOW *Total Disc. Trav.* VII. 303 The Venetian Factor seased vpon all.
- 1665 in *Extracts State Papers* (Friends' Hist. Soc.) (1912) 3rd Ser. 240 There was a full congregation of quakers and the like seised vpon by Sir Francis Clarke sunday last.
- 1880 J. PAYNE *New Poems* 259 A deadly terror got A sudden hold upon her.
- 1892 H. LANE *Differ. Rheum. Dis.* (ed. 2) 67 It seems to have taken a firm hold upon the public.

d. Of the incidence of a blow, stroke, etc.; = *ON prep.* 14c.

- c1300 *Havelok* (Laud) (1868) 2734 He..smot him so up-on þe crune, þat [etc.].
- c1330 (▸ ?c1300) *Guy of Warwick* (Auch.) I. 2368 Þan hastiliche þe ost ichon Opon Segyn þat smiten anon.
- 1470–85 T. MALORY *Morte d'Arthur* x. lx. 516 Sir Tristram gaf hym suche a buffet vpon the helme.
- 1507 in Leadam *Star Chamber Cases* (Selden) 253 He sawe..Irton being hurt vpon the hed.
- 1562 *Aberd. Kirk Session Rec.* (Spalding Club) 6 To be puneist with ane palm vpon the hand for ilk falt.
- 1594 *1st Pt. Raigne Selimus* 1447 Dart Thy smouldring flame Vpon the head of cursed Acomat.
- 1611 *Bible* (King James) Exod. vii. 17 Behold, I will smite with the rod..vpon the waters.
- 1711 J. ADDISON *Spectator* No. 9. ¶11 His Neighbour may give him a Kick upon the Shins.
- 1737 W. WHISTON tr. Josephus *Jewish War* I. xxi, in tr. Josephus *Genuine Wks.* 732 Many..have stood amazed..when they saw him..shoot the arrow upon the mark.
- 1813 W. SCOTT *Rokeby* VI. 313 One stroke, upon the castle bell, To Oswald rung his dying knell.
- 1844 E. B. BARRETT *Drama of Exile* 64 in *Poems* I This is the Eden lost By Lucifer!..this the sword..That smote upon the forehead.
- 1881 W. BESANT & J. RICE *Chaplain of Fleet* I. viii. 187 The cruel cat falling at every step upon their..bleeding shoulders.

e. In phrases of the type *harm upon harm, torment upon torment*, denoting cumulative addition or repetition; = *ON prep.* 18e.

- c1320 tr. J. Bonaventura *Medit.* 865 Þey wounded here, and heped harm vp on harmes.
 c1380 J. WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 346 And so servauntis upon servantis weren char[g]ious to þis hous.
 c1485 *Digby Myst.* (1882) iv. 1336 He had torment opon torment.
 ?1529 S. FISH *Supplicacyon for Beggers* sig. A7 The capteyns of his kingdome..haue heped to him benefice vpon benefice.
 1600 W. SHAKESPEARE *Merchant of Venice* III. i. 86 Why thou losse vpon losse.
 1600 W. SHAKESPEARE *Much Ado about Nothing* II. i. 229 Huddleing iest vpon iest, with such impossible conueiance vpon me.
 1613 S. PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* 152 Which heaped vpon them Anathema vpon Anathema.
 1699 J. EVELYN *Acetaria* App. sig. P4 Cover the Bottom of the Jar with some Dill,..then a Bed of Nuts; and so *stratum* upon *stratum*.
 1864 C. KINGSLEY *Roman & Teuton* v. 137 Dietrich had had to write letter upon letter.
 1882 'OUIDA' *In Maremma* I. 90 Centuries upon centuries of carnage..have laid the land bare.
 1884 C. F. WOOLSON in *Harper's Mag.* Feb. 371 Millions upon millions of violets.

f. On (a voyage, expedition, mission, etc.); = *ON prep.* 18d.

- 1426 J. LYDGATE tr. G. de Guileville *Pilgrimage Life Man* 648 Or I myhte make my passage To gynnen vp-on my pylgrymage.
 c1430 J. LYDGATE *Minor Poems* (Percy Soc.) 12 The kyng procedyng forthe upon his way, kome to the Condyte.
 1598 W. SHAKESPEARE *Henry IV, Pt. 1* I. iii. 148 When the vnhappy king..did set forth Vpon his Irish expedition.
 1711 J. ADDISON *Spectator* No. 55. ¶1 A young Fellow..sent upon a long Voyage.
 1712 W. ROGERS *Cruising Voy.* 324 To encourage our South Sea Company..to go upon some Discovery that way.
 1817 W. KIRBY & W. SPENCE *Introd. Entomol.* II. xvii. 77 The rufescent ants do not leave their nests to go upon these expeditions..till [etc.].
 1839 P. J. BAILEY *Festus* 232 As on they sped upon their starward course.

15. Into contact or collision with, esp. by way of attack; against; = *ON prep.* 19a.

See also *to come upon* — 1a at COME v. Phrasal verbs 2, *to fall upon* — 1a at FALL v. Phrasal verbs 2, FLY v.¹ 8b, *to go upon* — 1a at GO v. Phrasal verbs 2, LAY v.¹ 32a, *to set upon* — 1 at SET v.¹ Phrasal verbs 1.

- a1300 *Cursor Mundi* 24461 Me-thoght moght it [v.r. i] apon him rine,..I suld ha ben all hale.
 c1330 (► ?c1300) *Guy of Warwick* (Auch.) l. 1996* Þou schalt ȝif þe first asaut Opon þe Almaundes.
 c1385 G. CHAUCER *Legend Good Women* (Fairf.) Dido. 1327 On a nyght sleping he let hir lye, And staal a-wey vpon [v.r. vnto] his companye.
 c1400 *Sc. Trojan War* II. 444 Russhande wpone the altare.
 a1500 (► ?c1450) *Merlin* iii. 56 Whan Vter saugh..the Danes assembled, he sette vpon hem as vigorously or more.
 c1500 *Melusine* (1895) lix. 348 Go we vpon our enemyes to helpe & socoure our frendes.
 1535 *Bible* (Coverdale) 1 Sam. xvii. 35 And whan he wolde haue bene vpon me, I toke him by his beerde.
 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. N. de Nicolay *Nauigations Turkie* I. xix. 22 The Turkes.., vpon whom they of the Castle..gaue an assault.
 1622 J. MABBE tr. M. Alemán *Rogue* II. 48 I stumbled..vpon a great dung mixen.
 1631 E. PELLHAM *Gods Power* 2 Wee eight men..were bound for this Greenland aforesaid, to make a voyage upon Whales or Sea-horse.
 1711 J. ADDISON *Spectator* No. 299. ¶2 He drew his Sword upon me before he was Nine Years old.
 1782 W. COWPER *Loss Royal George* 20 She ran upon no rock.
 1801 J. STRUTT *Glig-gamena Angel-ðeod* III. i. 130 The two combatants..were thereby prevented from running their horses upon each other.

1857 T. HUGHES *Tom Brown's School Days* i. ix. 231 [They] run plump upon one of the masters as they emerge into the High street.

elliptical.

a1500 (► ?c1450) *Merlin* iii. 56 The kynge seide to his peple, 'Now vpon hem in all that we may.'

1535 *Bible* (Coverdale) 2 Sam. xviii. 14 Not so, I wil vpon him before thy face.

1598 W. SHAKESPEARE *Love's Labour's Lost* iv. iii. 343 Aduance your standars, and vpon them Lords.

1821 LD. BYRON *Sardanapalus* iv. i. 136 Upon them! (Trumpet sounds again.)

figurative.

1535 *Bible* (Coverdale) Bel & Dragon 30 Now whan y^e kynge sawe, that they russhed in so sore vpon him,..he deliuered Daniel vnto them.

1887 'L. CARROLL' *Game of Logic* i. 36 Let them Rush upon their Fate!

16. In the direction of; towards; = ON prep. 20.

a. In respect of looking, etc.

See also CAST v. 7, FRONT v. 1, GAPE v. 3, GAZE v. 1b, GLARE v. 2, LAUGH v. 2, LOOK v. 1, PORE v. 1, *to see on* — at SEE v. Phrasal verbs 2, SMILE v. 2a, SQUINT v. 2.

?c1225 (► ?a1200) *Ancrene Riwe* (Cleo. C.vi) (1972) 47 To kasten canh echnen vp on an 3eung wimmon.

a1325 (► c1250) *Gen. & Exod.* (1968) l. 2661 Dor-quiles he seweden [= looked] him up-on. Mani dede bleph un-don.

c1340 R. ROLLE *Pricke of Conscience* 5024 Pair bodys sal alle unsemely be,..and ugly, opon to se.

14.. in *Early Eng. Poems & Lives Saints* (1862) 144 Dame ypocryte loke vp-on a boke.

c1405 (► c1385) G. CHAUCER *Knight's Tale* (Hengwrt) (2003) l. 219 He caste his eye vp on Emelya.

1526 *Bible* (Tyndale) 1 John i. 1 That which..we have loked apon, and oure hondes have handled.

1581 EARL MORTON in *Calr. Scott. Pap.* VI. 14 I was purposed to have..turned my backe upon Scotland while I had sene further.

1632 W. LITHGOW *Totall Disc. Trav.* i. 38 Arthur looked vpon me, and I laughed vpon him.

1710 J. STRYPE *Hist. E. Grindal* i. vii. 70 These Unsuccesses were justly looked upon to proceed from the punishing Hand of Heaven.

1790 J. BRUCE *Trav. Source Nile* I. 5 We pointed our prow directly..upon Alexandria.

1799 W. WORDSWORTH *Two April Mornings* 19 Matthew..fixing still his eye Upon the eastern mountain-top.

1845 S. AUSTIN tr. L. von Ranke *Hist. Reformation in Germany* (ed. 2) II. 357 The fears of some, the hopes of others, and the attention of all, were now turned upon the young emperor.

1874 F. W. FARRAR *Life Christ* I. 472 He turned His back for a time upon His native land.

1884 M. OLIPHANT *Sir Tom* iv Her gray eyes absolutely flamed upon him.

b. In respect of movement, etc.

?a1400 *Morte Arth.* 262 Thow countez no caas, ne castes no forthire, Bot hurles furthe appone heuede, as thi herte thynkes.

1511 *Pylgrymage Richarde Guylforde* (Pynson) f. xv Our sauour criste..apperyd to his disciples..and after .viij. dayes..he come vpon theym ayen.

c1540 (► ?a1400) *Destr. Troy* 6258 If any stert vpon stray, strike hym to dethe!

1634 T. HERBERT *Relation Some Yeares Trauaile* 11 [We] were driuen to lee-ward a hundred leagues vpon the Coast of Brazil.

1689 J. COLLIER *Moral Ess. conc. Pride* To Rdr. sig. A2 Unless you point directly upon his Vice.

1716 *London Gaz.* No. 5455/3 Our Fleet..bore down upon them.

1828 in G. Concanen *Rep. Rowe v. Brenton* (1830) 28 To sink a shaft upon the lode.

1829 W. F. NAPIER *Hist. War Peninsula* II. 142 The hospitals..of Salamanca being evacuated upon Lamego, that town was crowded.

17.

†a. In or into (pieces); = *ON prep.* 17b.

c1400 *Sege Jerusalem* 699 Twey apys..Pat renten þe rawe flesche vpon rede peces.

b. Into, as by penetration; = *ON prep.* 17a.

1738 T. HERRING in J. Duncombe *Lett. Several Eminent Persons Deceased* (1773) II. 137 The sea, which here indents upon the country.

18. Unto, to (a person): in reference to descent or (*Scottish*) marriage; = *ON prep.*

22.

1492 in *Acts Lords of Council Civil Causes* (1839) I. 254/2 His faider..maryit him apoun his sister dochter incontrare his band.

c1540 J. BELLENDEN tr. H. Boece *Hyst. & Cron. Scotl.* iv. vii. f. 42/2 The eldest of hir dochteris wes maryid apoun..Marius.

1629 *Vse of Law* 37 in J. Doddridge *Lawyers Light* If this inheritance descend vpon a woman.

1667 DUCHESS OF NEWCASTLE *Life Duke of Newcastle* II. 93 A good Estate in the West, which afterwards descended upon my Lord.

1821 J. GALT *Ann. Parish* i. 11 My marriage upon my own cousin, Miss Betty Lanshaw.

1893 R. L. STEVENSON *Catriona* xxi. 254 She was married..upon my Uncle Robin.

19. Into, to, or on (some action, occupation, course, or condition); = *ON prep.* 23.

1390 J. GOWER *Confessio Amantis* I. 30 Thanne upon dissencioun Thei felle.

a1400 (► a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Vesp.) l. 15580 Alle þe apostels þan bi-gan to fal a-pon a gret.

1435 *Contract Fotheringhay Church* (1841) 29 During all the sayd werke the seid Will. Horwode shall nether set mo nor fewer Free-Masons..thereupon.

1483 in *Acta Dom. Conc.* II. Introd. 103 The said schiref put apone the said inquest..persons quhilk war suspect of the law.

a1513 R. FABYAN *New Cronycles Eng. & Fraunce* (1516) II. f. xxxiiiiv A Quest of .xii. knyghtes of Mydd[lesex], sworne vpon a Iurye.

1581 G. PETTIE tr. S. Guazzo *Ciuile Conuersat.* (1586) I. 29 b For..we naturallie runne upon things which are forbidden us.

1607 T. ROGERS *Faith, Doctr., & Relig.* Pref. sig. ¶4 Wee set vpon the building of Gods house.

1625 C. BURGESS *New Discouery Personal Tithes* 2 My Purpose is not here to fall vpon that Question.

1658 R. ALLESTREE *Pract. Christian Graces; or, Whole Duty of Man* xiv. §22. 300 It puts the child upon shifts, and tricks.

1709 J. STRYPE *Ann. Reformation* xxi. 240 Some while..after the entrance of Queen Elizabeth upon her government.

1750 S. JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 1 (1753) I The..Perplexity of being forced upon Choice.

1764 S. FOOTE *Mayor of Garret* I. 8 I advised him to pull off his spurs before he went upon action.

1813 *Examiner* 17 May 320/1 It put the Church upon the alert.

1847 WORDSW. in *Mem.* (1851) I. 14 When at school, I..was put upon reading the first six books of Euclid.

20.

a. Indicating the person or thing that action, feeling, etc., is directed towards or against, or that is influenced or affected by it; = *ON prep.* 24.

Construed with many verbs, as *attend*, *await*, *bear*, *bespit*, *bestow*, *breathe*, *call*, *charge*, etc. See also *FIE int.* 1, 2, *OUT int.* 2, *SHAME n.* Phrases 9b.

c1175 *Ormulum* (Burchfield transcript) l. 6119 Þe birrþ þin rihhte swinnkess winn Vpp onn 3uw alle nittenn.

- c1175 *Ormulum* (Burchfield transcript) l. 1750 Þa bedess. þatt te laferrd crist. Forr hise þeowwess biddeþþ Vpp onn hiss faderr heofenn king.
- a1225 *Leg. Kath.* 130 Ah se sone ha..wende hare wiheles, upon ham seoluen.
- 1297 *R. Gloucester's Chron.* (Rolls) 3167 Þe king ek in is syde is herte up on him caste.
- c1320 *Cast. Love.* 1482 Þat muche wo vs brou3te vppon.
- c1400 tr. *Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.* 106 He hadde greuously synned vpon him.
- 1473 J. WARKWORTH *Chron.* (Camden) 8 The Kynge..losyde his gonnys of his ordynaunce uppone them.
- c1500 *Melusine* (1895) lix. 360 Be ye he that wyl take the trybute vpon my Fortresse?
- 1533 in J. B. Paul *Accts. Treasurer Scotl.* (1905) VI. 156 To Johne Drummond's childer wirkand upoune the hagbute stokkis.
- 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. N. de Nicolay *Nauigations Turkie* I. xviii. 21 We will not leaue the following on vpon our purpose.
- 1633 S. MARMION *Fine Compan.* (1875) I. iii. 114 They can doe no more good upon me, than a young pittifull Lover upon a mistress that has the sullens.
- 1656 EARL OF MONMOUTH tr. T. Boccalini *Ragguagli di Parnasso* II. v. 206 He..had made their places be conferred upon men void of counsel.
- 1680 *Laws Nevis* (1740) iii. 6 If the said Offenders are not able to pay..then to be compelled to work it out upon the Forts.
- 1737 W. WHISTON tr. Josephus *Antiq. Jews* XVI. iv, in tr. Josephus *Genuine Wks.* 514 The father may have a suspicion upon all his sons.
- 1796 *Ann. Reg., St. Papers* 297 The constitution..is sacredly obligatory upon all.
- 1805 tr. A. Lafontaine *Hermann & Emilia* I. 261 Nothing is more detestable than to offer one's self upon a young man.
- 1850 F. W. ROBERTSON *Serm.* (1857) 3rd Ser. 7 Persecution is that which affixes penalties upon views held, instead of upon life led.
- 1896 *Peterson Mag.* Jan. 102/2 The intruded-upon young lady turned her back upon him.

b. Denoting the object of regard, desire, etc.; = *ON prep.* 20b.

See also DOTE *v.*¹ 2a, EAGER *adj.* 1, KEEN *adj.* 6b, MAD *adj.* 5, *to run upon* — 2c at RUN *v.* Phrasal verbs 2, SET *v.*¹ 37.

- c1330 R. MANNYNG *Chron. Wace* (Rolls) 7604 Opon þat meyden he wax al mad.
- 1382 J. WYCLIF *Psalms* xxxix. [xl.] 17 Ful out io3e thei, and glade vpon me, alle that sechen thee.
- c1449 R. PECOCK *Repressor* (1860) 267 He schal haue miche gretter affeccoun vpon the seid freend.
- 1470–85 T. MALORY *Morte d'Arthur* x. lvi. 508 Louers..soo mad and soo soted vpon wymmen.
- a1578 R. LINDSAY *Hist. & Cron. Scotl.* (1899) I. 169 The king..was covatous wpoun money.
- 1598 R. BARCKLEY *Disc. Felicitie of Man* I. 51 A young man..that was..enamoured vpon an Image of marble.
- 1612 BP. J. HALL *Contempl.* I. I. iv. 307 In this case, Moses should haue bene..cast downe..; yet how hote is hee vpon iustice.
- 1711 J. ADDISON *Spectator* No. 106. ¶3 When he is pleasant upon any of them, all his Family are in good Humour.
- 1843 *Fraser's Mag.* 28 619 O'Connell is bent upon the disruption of the British empire.

†c. Among (a number of sharers, etc.). *Obsolete.*

- 1492–3 in *Hist. MSS Comm.: 10th Rep.: App. Pt. V: MSS Marquis of Ormonde &c.* (1885) 323 in *Parl. Papers* (C. 4576–I) XLII. 1 Distributers of the same upon the commynes.
- 1526 *Bible* (Tyndale) Rom. xv. 26 To make a certayne distribucion apon the poore sanctes.
- 1598 R. DALLINGTON *View of Fraunce* sig. K 3 Hee diuideth the Lands vpon his horsemen, to each his portion.

d. Indicating the person by whom a cheque, draft, order, etc., is payable, or the bank on which it is drawn; = *ON prep.* 24c.

See also CHEQUE *n.* 3, DRAUGHT *n.* 35, DRAW *v.* 91.

- 1660 in E. Nicholas *Nicholas Papers* (1920) IV. 226 Mr. Fox hauing giuen mee a note upon Mr. Shaw to pay me my allowance.
- a1722 J. LAUDER *Decisions* (1759) I. 12 The bill upon his wife for £200.
- 1723 D. DEFOE *Hist. Col. Jack* (ed. 2) 255 He shows me a Bill upon me, drawn by my Wife.
- 1798 in *Ushaw Mag.* Dec. (1913) 287 An order upon Mr. Wright for £12 as the price of the book sent you.
- 1843 *Blackwood's Edinb. Mag.* 54 736 It may be quite as well..to draw upon the bank.

21.

a. Indicating a person or thing towards whom or which hostile or adverse action or language is directed; against; = *ON prep.* 26.

See also (a) *BLOW v.*¹ 30, *COMPLAIN v.* 6b, *to cry out* 2 at *CRY v.* Phrasal verbs 1, *DESIGN n.* 2a, *LIE v.*² 1b, *PEACH v.* 2b, *RAGE v.* 2c, *RAIL v.*⁵ 1a, *STEAL v.*¹ 5e; (b) *to go upon* — 1a at *GO v.* Phrasal verbs 2, *to make upon* — at *MAKE v.* Phrasal verbs 2, *SEEK v.* 17.

(a)

- c1175 *Ormulum* (Burchfield transcript) l. 415 Þatt fand mann nan þing upp on hemm To wreʒenn. ne to tælenn.
- a1225 *Leg. Kath.* 2204 Þa Porphire iseh feole, Þet me seide hit upon,..dreien to deaðe.
- c1275 *Passion Our Lord* 241 in *Old Eng. Misc.* 44 A ueole kunne wise hi lowen him vp-on.
- c1430 J. LYDGATE *Horse, Goose & Sheep* 151 He cryethe affter peasse, compleynnythe vppon þe werres sore.
- c1450 *Alphabet of Tales* (1904) I. 12 Þis abbatis..forgaff þaim at þai had saide vppon hur.
- 1560 J. DAUS tr. J. Sleidane *Commentaries* f. x He declareth howe greuously he is complained vpon vnto the Duke.
- 1642 W. LAUD *Diary* 2 Dec. They were sufficiently railed upon in the streets.
- 1651 H. MORE *Second Lash of Alazanomastix* in *Enthusiasmus Triumphatus* (1656) 253 I now forgive thee heartily for all thy abuses upon me.
- a1715 BP. G. BURNET *Hist. Own Time* (1724) I. 385 The Court carried every question., tho' with..a protestation made upon every step that was carried.
- 1737 W. WHISTON tr. Josephus *Jewish War* v. xiii, in tr. Josephus *Genuine Wks.* 914 He also jested upon him.
- 1753 J. COLLIER *Art Tormenting* (1811) II. ii. 130 Nor need you be apprehensive of the others telling tales upon you.
- 1861 F. TEMPLE *Serm.* 274 The unhappy man who has not courage to tell upon himself.
- 1891 *Law Times* 90 441/2 The judges..must accept criticism upon their order.

(b)

- c1175 *Ormulum* (Burchfield transcript) l. 7155 Forr þatt he wennde þatt tatt folc. Vpp onn himm cumenn wære..forr to niþþrenn himm.
- c1230 *Hali Meid.* 17 Leccherie..secheð earst upon hire, nebbe to nebbe.
- c1300 *Havelok* (Laud) (1868) 65 Was non so bold..Þat durste upon his menie bringhe Hunger.
- c1386 G. CHAUCER *Monk's Tale* 537 The peple roos vp-on hym on a nyght.
- 1393 W. LANGLAND *Piers Plowman* C. VII. 106 Ich am wratthe,..wol gladliche smyte Boþe with ston and with staf, and stele vp-on myn enemy.
- a1400 *K. Alis.* (Laud) 4875 Euermore hij beþ werrende, And vpon oþer conquerrende.
- 1475 *Bk. Noblesse* (Roxb.) 5 They bring assailours vppon this lande.
- a1500 (► ?c1450) *Merlin* ii. 24 The hethen assembled a grete oste vpon hem.
- 1518 in I. S. Leadam *Select Cases Star Chamber* (1911) II. 137 Afterwardes they sought vpon hym at hys boothe with ij clubbys.
- 1535 *Bible* (Coverdale) 1 Esdras i. 27 I am not sent..to fight agaynst y^e, for my warre is upon Euphrates.
- 1608 *Yorkshire Trag.* sig. C4 It shal be my charge To raise the towne vpon him.

(c)

- 1476 in T. Thomson *Acts Lords Auditors* (1839) 55/2 Elene Tulloch..wes marijt þe tim þat þe said det wes recouerit apon hir.
- 1482 in H. E. Malden *Cely Papers* (1900) 85 To see the hurtes and harms he dyd yow vppon your goodes.

- 1598 R. BARRET *Theorike & Pract. Mod. Warres* II. 28 He is to haue great care..that his soldiers grow not licencious vpon their poore hosts.
- 1647 in *Crawford Proclam.* (1910) II. 55/1 Robberies committed by the tories and rebels upon the protestants.
- 1678 N. WANLEY *Wonders Little World* v. i. §98. 468/1 Encroachments upon his Dominions.
- 1748 B. ROBINS & R. WALTER *Voy. round World by Anson* II. v. 176 The most eligible station on that coast for cruising upon the enemy.
- 1754 A. MURPHY *Gray's Inn Jrnl.* No. 102. ¶2 A Design upon one another's Pockets..was introductory of another Crime.
- 1772 in *Eng. Hist. Rev.* Jan. (1915) 30 He places a number of..sepoys upon them and their families.
- 1883 *Harper's Mag.* Aug. 448/2 The disadvantages are..unreliability in stays.., hardness upon helms.

b. On or against (a person), by way of vengeance or the like.

- a1400 (► a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Vesp.) l. 5862 Þat suerd apon hus tak na wrak.
- c1400 *Pilgr. Sowle* (1483) III. viii. 55 They alwey hauen sought vengeance.., to be wroken vppon tho that ought haue mysliked them.
- 1470–85 T. MALORY *Morte d'Arthur* x. lv. 506 Soone we shold haue ben reuenged vpon the fals knyghtes.
- 1526 W. BONDE *Pylgrimage of Perfection* II. sig. Iiiii Josue commaunded the sonne to stande styll in one place, vnto he were reuenged vpon his ennemies.
- 1535 *Bible* (Coverdale) Isa. i. D I must ease me of myne enemies, and a venge me vpon them.
- 1595 W. S. *Lamentable Trag. Locrine* II. v. 86 Reuenge my death vpon his traiterous head.
- 1860 W. F. HOOK *Lives Archbishops Canterbury* I. vii. 377 Edwy had the power to avenge himself upon Dunstan.
- elliptical.*
- c1485 *Digby Myst.* (1882) I. 322 A shamefull deth I aske vpon herowde.
- 1535 *Bible* (Coverdale) Psalms lviii. 10 God letteth me se my desyre vpon myne enemies.

c. So as to close in or confine.

- a1382 *Bible* (Wycliffite, E.V.) (Douce 370) (1850) 4 Kings iv. 5 The woman wente, and closede the dore vpon hir silf and vpon hir children.
- 1535 *Bible* (Coverdale) Num. xvi. E They wente downe quycke in to the hell..And the earth closed vpon them [vpō in text].
- 1535 *Bible* (Coverdale) Psalms lxix. 15 That..the pitte shut not hir mouth vpon me.
- 1633 T. ADAMS *Comm. 2 Peter* (ii. 5) 580 The Lord..himselfe shut the doore of the Arke vpon Noah.
- 1701 H. PRIDEAUX *Direct. Church-wardens* (1712) 10 If they shall meet..with the Doors lock'd, barred, or bolted upon them.
- 1844 C. DICKENS *Martin Chuzzlewit* xlvi. 555 Softly turning the key upon him as they went out.

22.

a. With respect or regard to; in reference to; touching, concerning; as to; = ON

prep. 25.

See also AGREE *v.* 8a, COMPLIMENT *v.* 3, CONCLUDE *v.* 13, CONSULT *v.* 1, INSIST *v.* 3, LOT *n.* 1, MATTER *n.* 5c, PRIDE *v.* 3, TREAT *v.* 2a, VALUE *v.* 8.

- a1382 *Bible* (Wycliffite, E.V.) (Douce 369(1)) (1850) Eccclus. xxii. 11 A litil weep vp on the deade, for he restede.
- 1390 J. GOWER *Confessio Amantis* I. 110 I finde upon Surquiderie, How that..Be olde daies was a King [etc.].
- c1400 *Contin. Brut* 321 In þe whiche parlement was treted..how he myȝte best oppon his wrong be avenged.
- 1439 *Cases bef. King's Council* (Selden) 105 The Kyngis counsaillours examined the persones..upon the ryot.
- 1484 *Surtees Misc.* (1888) 43 Surmising none othere upon hyme.
- 1515 in I. S. Leadam *Select Cases Star Chamber* (1911) II. 85 Two seuerall Writtes..to theym directed to enquire and examyn vpon certen Interrogatorie.
- 1584 T. COGAN *Hauen of Health* xc. 81 If you will not be at cost vppon spices, you may make a verie sweete water thus.

- 1609 *Bible* (Douay) I. 1 Kings xxx. 6 The soule of everie man was bitterly affected upon their sonnes, and daughters.
- 1680 J. MOXON *Mech. Exercises* I. XIII. 227 Having such good Success upon Brass, I improv'd the Invention so, as to make it serve for Wood also.
- 1710 R. STEELE *Tatler* No. 150. ¶4 I could name Two, who..fell out and parted Beds upon the boiling of a Leg of Mutton.
- 1760 *Imposters Detected* III. vii [She] was not in the least vain or proud upon the encomiums..from every mouth.
- 1826 D. BOOTH *Art of Brewing* (ed. 2) 9 Opinions and practices..completely at variance upon the subject of mashing.
- 1843 *Blackwood's Edinb. Mag.* 54 209 I shall set you at ease..upon that point.
- 1885 *Law Rep.: Queen's Bench Div.* 14 921 This case raises a novel point upon which there is no authority.

b. Denoting the object to or towards which mental activity is directed; = ON prep.

25b.

See also CONSIDER *v.* 11b, MEDITATE *v.* 1a, MIN *v.* 2 4b, MIND *n.* 1 6 (quot. 1589 at sense 10c), PUT *v.* 16b, REFLECT *v.* 8a, REMEMBER *v.* 1 7b, to run upon — 2b at RUN *v.* Phrasal verbs 2, STUDY *v.* 12, 5, THINK *v.* 3a, TREAT *v.* 2.

- a1300 *Sarmun* xxxvi, in *Early Eng. Poems & Lives Saints* (1862) 5 And þenç þos wordis her ispoke; for-3ite ham noȝt ac þenç apan.
- 1390 J. GOWER *Confessio Amantis* I. 14 To studie upon the worldes lore Sufficeth now withoute more.
- a1400 (► a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Vesp.) l. 112 In hir wirschip wald i bigyn A lastand warc apon to myn.
- a1400 *Isumbras* 427 Sir Ysambrace hym umbithoghte Appone a horse that coles broghte.
- 1463 in S. Tymms *Wills & Inventories Bury St. Edmunds* (1850) 34 A remembraunce to thinke vpon me.
- a1500 (► ?c1450) *Merlin* iii. 49 The moste remembraunce that I shall haue, shall be vpon yow, and on yowre nedes.
- 1582 *Bible* (Rheims) Matt. vii. 28 The multitude were in admiration vpon his doctrine.
- 1611 *Bible* (King James) 1 Tim. iv. 15 Meditate vpon these things.
- 1655 LD. ORRERY *Parthenissa* II. i. viii. 418 Did you reflect upon it with an vnprejudicate opinion.
- 1719 D. DEFOE *Life Robinson Crusoe* 263 I ask'd him what it was he study'd upon.
- 1719 D. DEFOE *Farther Adventures Robinson Crusoe* 82 But now the Admiration was turn'd upon another Question.
- 1871 W. ALEXANDER *Johnny Gibb* xlv. 319 It has a closin'-in heid-piece concern that min's me..upon a mutch that my wife hed ance.
- 1899 W. J. LOCKE *White Dove* 3 S— was at last able to reflect upon the entire unexpectedness of his presence.

c. Denoting the subject of speech or writing; = ON prep. 25c.

Frequently with verbs, as *rave*, *talk*, *write*; AMPLIFY *v.* 3c(b), CRITICIZE *v.* 2a, DISTINGUISH *v.* 8c, to speak unto — at SPEAK *v.* Phrasal verbs 1.

(a)

- a1390 *Wycliffite Bible* (1850) IV. 303 An other [prologue] vpon Romayns.
- 1390 J. GOWER *Confessio Amantis* II. 65 Laodomie his lusti wif..Upon a thing wherof sche dradde A lettre..sende him.
- 1525 LD. BERNERS tr. J. Froissart *Cronycles* II. Preface My Preface vpon the fyrst volume of this cronycle.
- 1533 J. FRITH *Bk. answeringe Moyses Let.* sig. Eijj^v The mynde and exposition of the olde Doctours vpon the wordes of Chrystes maundy.
- 1557 EARL OF SURREY et al. *Songes & Sonettes* sig. O.iii (heading) Vpon the deceas of w. Ch.
- a1616 W. SHAKESPEARE *Macbeth* (1623) II. i. 22 We would spend it in some words vpon that Busnesse.
- 1697 D. DEFOE *Ess. Projects* Pref. I wou'd not adventure to appear in Print upon that Subject.
- 1709 R. STEELE *Tatler* No. 114. ¶1 Our Discourse chanced to be upon the Subject of Death.
- 1758 J. BOSWELL *Let.* 16 Dec. (1924) I. 6 From 1 to 2, [I] attend a college upon Roman Antiquities.
- 1801 *Farmer's Mag.* Jan. 66 A series of animadversions..published upon it in a provincial paper.
- 1824 LD. BYRON *Don Juan: Canto XVI* xlvii. 87 She..Made epigrams..Upon her friends.
- 1893 R. L. STEVENSON *Catriona* xii. 133 He engaged the goodwife..with some compliments upon the rizzoring of our haddocks.

(b)

- 1484 W. CAXTON tr. G. de la Tour-Landry *Bk. Knight of Tower* (1971) xxxi. 53 Now I shalle telle yow vpon this matere of a good lady.
- ?1529 *Proper Dyaloge Gentillman & Husbandman* sig. C vi Saynct Austyne sayeth vppon the Psalter, the clargy occupyeth the secular lordshyppe secularly.
- 1574 R. BRISTOW *Briefe Treat. Plaine Wayes* x. f. 47^v Upon these two, Christ.. and his Church, ronnet al the Scriptures.
- 1581 FULKE in *Confer.* (1583) III. sig. Q ij b I wil not vouchsafe to replie vpon this answer.
- 1605 W. CAMDEN *Remaines* I. 143 But hee repaied him with this re-allusion vppon the name.
- 1710 R. STEELE *Tatler* No. 14. ¶1 My Design of observing upon Things.
- 1747 S. RICHARDSON *Clarissa* I. xxvi. 166 I..am the less sollicitous..to amplify upon the contents of either.

(c)

- 1481 in Blades W. Caxton (1882) 231 The polytyque book..whiche that Tullius wrote vpon the disputacons [etc.].
- c1600 W. FOWLER *Wks.* (S.T.S.) 9 A Fvneral Sonet, written vpon the death of..Elizabeth Dowglas.
- 1709 J. ADDISON *Tatler* No. 163. ¶3 The Sonnet..was written upon a Lady.
- 1776 S. JOHNSON in Boswell *Life Johnson* (1904) I. 647 A man who has never been engaged in trade himself may undoubtedly write well upon trade.
- 1791 'G. GAMBADO' *Ann. Horsemanship* To Rdr. p. v Had they spent as much time in riding upon turnips, as they have in writing upon them.

III. In other senses.

†23. From (a person or persons), esp. by means of hostile attack; = *ON prep.* 27.

Obsolete. (Cf. 21)

Const. with verbs, as *make, nim, recover, take, win*; also *CONQUER v.* 2b, *GAIN v.* 2 4.

- 1338 R. MANNYNG *Chron.* (1810) 22 Uppon Saynt Edmund Northfolk he nam.
- a1387 J. TREVISA tr. R. Higden *Polychron.* (St. John's Cambr.) (1876) VI. 291 Egbertus..took Chestre uppon þe Britouns.
- 1412–20 J. LYDGATE tr. *Hist. Troy* III. 3423 Troyens han wonne a-geyn her londe Vp-on Grekis.
- 1483 in *Acta Dom. Conc.* II. Introd. 114 Quhilk some was recoverit be..Dure apone the said Schir Johne.
- c1515 LD. BERNERS tr. *Bk. Duke Huon of Burdeux* (1882–7) 527 A ryche shyp, the whiche was wonne vpon the sowdans men.
- 1569 R. GRAFTON *Chron.* II. 194 They wanne dayly and yerely vpon the sayd Turkes, so that they had..much of the landes.
- 1643 W. PRYNNE *Doomes of Cowardize* 6 At last by such forcible assaults the said Towne was taken upon the said Robert.
- 1654 J. BRAMHALL *Just Vindic. Church of Eng.* i. 2 Whatsoever the Popes of Rome gained upon us.
- 1660 in E. Nicholas *Nicholas Papers* (1920) IV. 187 The prizes made by the Ostenders upon the Kings subjects.
- 1742 G. LEONI tr. A. Palladio *Architecture* II. 66 The Spoils made upon Pyrrhus King of Epirus.

†24. In respect of; = *ON prep.* 5. *Obsolete.*

- a1350 in G. L. Brook *Harley Lyrics* (1968) 32 He is blosme opon bleo, brihtest vnder bis.
- a1400 (► a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Gött.) I. 2034 (*MED*) He lis here vte, cum se þu sal, Nakid apou his limes all.

25. On (a musical instrument).

- c1384 G. CHAUCER *Hous of Fame* III. 110 Ther herd I pleyen vpon an harpe..Orpheus ful craftely.
- 1524 *Reg. Privy Seal Scot.* I. 499/1 Playing apoun organis in the Kingis chapell.
- 1552 in A. Feuillerat *Documents Office of Revels Edward VI* (1914) 89 I haue provided one to plaie vppon a kettell drom.
- 1621 R. BRATHWAIT *Natures Embassie* Ded. Able to play vpon an oaten pipe.
- 1683 W. KENNETT tr. Erasmus *Witt against Wisdom* 68 No more skill..than a Pig playing upon the Organs.
- 1709 D. MANLEY *Secret Mem.* 149 A great many of 'em..can toot, toot, toot, it upon a Pipe.

- 1842 LD. TENNYSON *Locksley Hall* in *Poems* (new ed.) II. 92 When you want me, sound upon the bugle horn.
 a1845 S. SMITH *Elem. Sketches Moral Philos.* (1850) 175 Any air..performed upon such an instrument as the bagpipe.
 1876 J. GRANT *Hist. Burgh Schools Scotl.* II. 380 Discoursing laments upon the Bagpipes.

26. Denoting advance from or improvement on some standard, etc.

See also IMPROVE *v.* ² 6b, IMPROVEMENT *n.* 6c, REFINE *v.* 9.

- 1662 J. EVELYN *Sculptura* iv. 50 Which afterwards Sebastiano Serli refining upon, compos'd the better part of that excellent book of his.
 1711 J. ADDISON *Spectator* No. 44. ¶6 The French have therefore refin'd too much upon Horace's Rule.
 1782 J. PRIESTLEY *Hist. Corruptions Christianity* I. III. 301 An improvement was made upon this doctrine.
 1843 *Blackwood's Edinb. Mag.* 54 197 Mr. Collins has improved greatly upon his last year's exhibition.
 1859 W. E. GLADSTONE in *Q. Rev.* Oct. 480 If he continues to advance upon himself as he has advanced heretofore.

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